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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-203
Friday
20 October 1995

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Police, Security Heads Endorse Combating 'Terrorism'

LD1810222695 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The 19th conference of the Arab police and security chiefs recommended the adoption of the draft Arab information strategy on security awareness and crime prevention.

At the end of its proceedings today in Tunis, the conference also endorsed the recommendations of the conference of the heads of security sectors and the meetings of committees held within the framework of the general secretariat in 1995. Among these recommendations was the adoption of the draft Arab strategy for combating terrorism which aims, among others, at defending the true image of Arabism and Islam, safeguarding the security and stability of the Arab homeland, defending it from criminal and terrorist activities, as well as safeguarding the security of the individual in the Arab homeland and ensuring their safety, freedom, rights, and properties.

UMA Committee Signs Protocol After Meetings

LD1910212495 Tripoli JANA in English 1802 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Tumur [October] 19, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The protocol of the meetings of the 8th session of the Arab Maghreb Union's [UMA] ministerial Committee for Human Resources was signed at the end of the meetings in Tripoli.

The protocol was signed by the General People's Committee for Education and Scientific Research and by Amar Sakhri, the Algerian education minister, Abdessalem Baroual, the Moroccan minister of professional training, Hatim Ben Othman, the Tunisian Education minister and Mahjub Walid, the Mauritanian ambassador accredited to the Great Jamahariyah.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Mohammed Omamo, the secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union, and ambassadors and human resources experts in the Arab Maghreb Union.

The protocol stipulates the enhancement of cooperation in the areas of health, social security, legal affairs, youth, sports, information, culture, training, employment, education, higher education and scientific research.

Islamic Affairs

King Fahd Nominates League Secretary General

LD1910225695 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the basis of Article 16 of the Constitution of the Islamic World League, which stipulates that the secretary general of the Islamic World League must a citizen of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has nominated Dr. 'Abdallah Bin-Salih Bin-'Ubayd for the post of secretary general of the Islamic World League to succeed Dr. Ahmad Bin-Muhammad 'Ali.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 15 Oct

NC1910090595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 15 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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1. Journalists To Meet To Discuss Husayn's Trial
2. Opposition Said To Capture 60% of Parliament Seats
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4. Shukri Defends Brotherhood, Islamic Alliance
5. Labor Official Lectures on Elections
6. Writer Views 10 Recommendations for Progress
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JOURNALISTS TO MEET TO DISCUSS HUSAYN'S TRIAL

An unattributed 300-word report on page 1 notes in the next few hours the Journalists Syndicate is expected to issue a statement on the libel suit filed against AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Husayn under Law 93 of 1995. The libel suit has been filed by 'Ala' Hasan al-Alfi, son of the interior minister. The report notes that journalists and politicians have denounced the measure, which they described as a breach of the "promises" made by the government in its dialogue with journalists over Law 93/1995. The report adds that in its upcoming meeting, the syndicate is scheduled to discuss the legal measures that could be adopted as a result of this measure, including the possibility of challenging the constitutionality of this law before the Supreme Constitutional Court. It adds that the dialogue between the government and the journalists has been "poisoned."

OPPOSITION SAID TO CAPTURE 60% OF PARLIAMENT SEATS

A 500-word report by 'Imad Mahjub on page 1 cites "high-level security reports" stating that the National Democratic Party's [NDP] selection of candidates for the upcoming parliamentary elections has caused "anger and resentment" among the voters. According to the same reports, the NDP candidates cannot secure a parliamentary majority, which is "guaranteed for the opposition parties and the independent candidates." The reports add that the opposition is sure of capturing "between 55 and 60 percent" of the seats, most of which will go to the "Islamic Alliance," followed by the Wafd Party, the Nasirite Party, and the National Progressive Unionist Grouping. Mahjub adds that in light of these serious reports, the NDP General Secretariat is scheduled to hold a meeting in the next few hours to provide backing for the NDP candidates and to settle the "acute" division within the party following the naming of the party candidates.

HARASSMENT OF ISLAMIC CANDIDATES CONTINUES

An approximately 450-word report by 'Amr Salman on page 1 notes that as part of its ongoing campaign to prevent Islamists from running in the upcoming elections, the State Security Intelligence forces have broken into the home of Engineer Muhsin al-Quway'i, head of the Damanhur City Council and a candidate in the elections. The security men "abducted" the candidate's brother and threatened to detain his wife. On the evening of 11 October, Eng. al-Quway'i turned himself in to the State Security Intelligence Department. A government newspaper on 11 October cited Prosecutor Husan Hilal of accusing al-Quway'i of "recruiting new elements for his organization." This is a mere "fabrication" since al-Quway'i turned himself in to authorities on the evening of 11 October. Thus, the report adds that the prosecutor could not have questioned him before that, as the paper claimed.

Salman also reports that the Scientists Syndicate has issued a statement denouncing the arrest of the Syndicate Secretary General Dr. 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Miliji and called for the immediate release of al-Miliji and the other "honorable men" previously arrested. The syndicate promised to take all the legal measures against those making false accusations against its members. The Arab Doctors Union has issued a statement denouncing the arrest of Dr. 'Abd-al- Mun'im Abu-al-Futuh, the union's assistant secretary general, and called on President Mubarak to release him.

A related 100-word report on page 1 notes that security forces broke into the al-Tawbah Mosque in the Hada'iq al-Qubbah district of Cairo on 10 October and arrested 30 people, including members of the mosque's board of directors. The report notes that the "storming operation" is part of the measures to "filter out" the Islamist figures before the upcoming elections, in which all signs indicate that the Islamic candidates are slated to score a "sweeping" victory.

SHUKRI DEFENDS BROTHERHOOD, ISLAMIC ALLIANCE

In a 2,000-word article entitled "The Islamic Alliance Has Been in Existence Since the Fifties" on pages 1 and 2, Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri writes that the government's "undemocratic" measures prior to the elections and the media's harping on the existence of "differences" within the Islamic Alliance are reminiscent of the past. Shukri goes back to 20 February 1950, when the then-House of Representatives was debating the validity of the "Emergency Law," which was in effect even then. Shukri describes how he stood up in parliament to defend the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] and called for revoking the military decree to disband the Brotherhood. Shukri adds: "My defense of the MB then and now is not only because of my belief in the right of all Egyptians to form political parties and groups that express their views, but also because we believe that the group is an Islamic movement that reflects the spirit of struggle against colonialism, tyranny, and corruption." Shukri adds that it is only natural to recall the past when the MB leaders are being tried in the military courts now and the country continues to live under the Emergency Law. Shukri adds that today, as in the past, he stands in defense of the alliance and urges everybody to honor its behavior in the face of "corruption, subservience, and the regime's undemocratic procedures and conduct." Dismissing claims that the "Islamic alliance" is an election-related or temporary phenomenon, Shukri adds: "I seize this opportunity to reiterate that the Islamic alliance is not subject to negotiation, not born on the spur of the moment, and will not be affected by any rumors." Ridiculing the state's claims that the recent arrests of MB leaders are not related to the elections, Shukri adds: "Everybody knows that the detainees are the very people whom the Brotherhood was going to back in the elections." In conclusion, he urges all democratic forces, whether within or outside the Islamic alliance, to close ranks to defend freedom of expression and democracy.

LABOR OFFICIAL LECTURES ON ELECTIONS

Qutb al-'Arabi writes a 1,000-word report on page 1 on a lecture given by Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn at the Cairo- based Ibn-Khaldun Center for Development Studies. In his lecture, Husayn reviewed the Labor Party's position and opinions on the upcoming elections. Husayn noted that the tremendous changes in the country's social makeup and economy since the seventies have not been matched by similar changes in the political domain. He added, He added, as a result, the Labor Party has decided to contest the elections in order to improve political and parliamentary performance. He noted that Mubarak started his term in office by releasing political prisoners detained under al-Sadat, but the regime stopped with that measure and the level of democracy shrank after that. Husayn added that Egypt exceeds even the "most backward" nations in election-rigging, in which entire "ballot boxes" are often replaced. Husayn pointed out that the previous elections, which the opposition boycotted, were rigged and all signs are that the upcoming elections are heading in the same direction. He added: "Thus, there is no room for optimism about a fair election campaign. But we have decided to enter the campaign so they know that rigging will not be as easy this time and will be very costly to them." Referring to the Islamic alliance, Husayn added: "Faced with the ruling party's determination to monopolize power and reject peaceful change, it is imperative for us to enhance our strength as an opposition power. Although we have made some progress, we have not yet achieved all we want and we are still seeking closer coordination among the opposition forces in order to challenge the regime."

WRITER VIEWS 10 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROGRESS

Retired Major General Kamal Hafiz, a Labor Party official, in a 2,500-word article entitled "The 10 Recommendations for Progress" on page 2, notes that a writer's duty is not to shed tears on the "miserable" reality facing any nation, but to shed light on the prerequisites for glory, dignity, and honor, and to give hope to the people. Hafiz advances 10 recommendations which he believes will lead to progress, noting that these recommendations are not "divine" and that the people have options to choose from. The writer's first recommendation is that the public "renounce passivity" and stop being "spectators." He adds: "Reliance on jokes and coffee shop sessions as weapons of resistance is no longer adequate. We have used them too long, only to find those whom we joked about are laughing at us. So emerge from your cages, for you are stronger; and confront them in the factory, the school, and the street; victory will be with you." Hafiz' second recommendation is to stand up to corruption, for this is not the government's job, particularly if the government is one of the major causes of corruption. In his third recommendation, Hafiz urges the people to start confronting the "domination of the powerful" at the ballot boxes, for power comes to those who seek it. Fourth, the writer recommends that people stop being hypocrites, adding that we have paid a heavy price for our longstanding legacy of hypocrisy. Thanks to this hypocrisy, he adds, a ruler comes to believe that he is the "messenger of divine providence" to us and starts looking down on us. In his fifth recommendation, the writer advises the people to abandon "public submission" and to stop treating rulers like demigods and trailing behind them like a flock of sheep. Hafiz' sixth recommendation is for the people to refuse to be "dwarfed." He adds that a ruler who is intellectually bankrupt seeks close association with "unjust international power," even if such a power acts counter to the desires of his own people. Such rulers eventually become alienated from their own people and turn into agents for this international power. Hafiz' seventh recommendation is for the people to stand up to totalitarianism, which is manmade and the source of all evil. The eighth recommendation is for the people not to remain silent about bad policies but to speak up, demonstrate, and resist the policies and their authors, but not with violence. His ninth recommendation is to reject the ruler's henchmen, who normally are to blame for all shortcomings and who "legitimize" the ruler's mistakes while he in return remains silent about their corruption. The writer's last recommendation is for the people to choose the best way for resistance, regardless of difficulty.

GOVERNMENT USES DETENTION TO WIN ELECTION

A 1,500-word report by Muhammad Hilal on page 3 notes that with the policy of detaining opposition and MB candidates as elections approach, the government has failed to undermine the candidates' popularity. Instead, it has made the candidates more popular. Hilal points out that the government thought that its extensive campaign would weaken the opposition. The writer argues that the MB has gained more popularity and international sympathy since members of the group were referred to military courts, adding that it would have taken the group years to earn the standing it now enjoys in the hearts of the people. On the other hand, he adds, the government's heavy-handed policy has increased public resentment of the ruling party. The writer cites opposition and public figures on the government's repressive measures against the opposition candidates. Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, former parliament member, who has been in detention for seven months, states that his continued detention without incriminating evidence has prevented him from contacting people in his own constituency and deprived him of his constitutional right to prepare for the coming parliamentary elections. Another example of the government's policy is the arrest of 'Abd-al-Rahman

Lutfi, Labor Party secretary in Mallawi, who was detained after his announcement of his intention to run in the elections. The report notes that the detention campaign is coupled with a media campaign and remarks by state officials aimed at tarnishing the image of the "moderate Islamic current." The report notes that this policy will increase the government's isolation and lead to the country's collapse.

ELECTION SLOGANS PUBLISHED

Under the headline "Islam Is the Solution" framed by the words "Faith" and "Labor," election slogans are published on page 12. The page is divided sideways into two sections, the first features the headline "10 Blows" while the second is labelled "10 Aspirations." Under the section entitled "10 Blows." The following points are listed:

—"Combating the religious awakening"
—"Price hikes and poverty"
—"Corruption"
—"Despotism and torture"
—"Debts"
—"Unemployment"
—"Disease"
—"Subservience"
—"Arab fragmentation"
—"Humiliation before Israel"

Under the section entitled "10 Aspirations", which presumably refers to the ambitions of the Labor candidates, the following points are listed:

—"Elevating God's word"
—"Social justice"
—"Virtue"
—"Honoring people under the shura"
—"Self-reliance"
—"Development"
—"Social security for every citizen"
—"National independence"
—"Arab integration toward unity"
—"Gearing up to confront Israel's tyranny"

Beneath the two sections, the following is written: "Egypt is the homeland of all Egyptians and the Islamic civilization is an umbrella for Muslims and Copts."

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas on Military Action, Dialogue With PA

TA1910143795 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Oct 95 pp 8, 7

[Report by Khamis al-Turk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, Jerusalem Media Office — Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] issued a statement yesterday at noon entitled "Toward a Serious Dialogue Between Hamas and the Authority." In this statement, Hamas said that stemming from its strong concern for and commitment to the Palestinian people's supreme national interest, and in order to realize our people's rights, Hamas has responded to all the noble calls and the sincere efforts that seek to close the ranks and mend the rift in the Palestinian body.

The statement added that within this context, Hamas has blessed the efforts of the mediation committees that are working to bring the views of Hamas and the Authority closer and end the disagreements in order to allow all the sons of our people to live on the homeland's soil in harmony and deny the enemies the opportunity to exploit our differences in a bid to extort more concessions, which causes harm to our people and their cause.

The statement emphasized the following points:

— Hamas stresses that until now it has not pledged to stop military action and that this issue is being left for the Palestinian people.

— There is absolutely no basis to media reports that Hamas has undertaken to hand over the body of the soldier Ilan Sa'adon. Therefore, it warns our masses to beware of what is carried in the news media about Hamas and its positions.

— The Palestinian Authority [PA] has promised to release all Hamas prisoners in its jails as a goodwill gesture in a bid to pave the way for a serious, fruitful, and unconditional national dialogue.

— We in Hamas refuse for the issue of our prisoners in the Authority's jails to become subject to bargaining in the national dialogue.

— We in Hamas announce our adherence to all our convictions pertaining to the Oslo agreement, as it does not meet the minimal demands of the Palestinian people.

Moreover, we hope that all efforts aimed at uniting the Palestinian people's word will meet with success. We also announce our resolute support for our sister prisoners and demand the release of all detainees without exception.

Minutes of PA-Hamas Discussions Cited

NC1910121795 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Oct 95 p 9

[Report by Tariq Hasan in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] During a recent meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, representatives of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, proclaimed their wish to maintain Palestinian unity and said it supports Israeli withdrawal from all parts of the West Bank and Gaza.

AL-AHRAM has obtained from al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidential office in Gaza, the minutes of two meetings held over the past few days between 'Arafat and Hamas representatives.

The first meeting was held last Thursday [12 October] between 'Arafat and four Hamas figures, who acted as mediators. These mediators had recently returned from a meeting in Khartoum with Hamas leaders residing abroad. The second meeting was held at noon on Friday between 'Arafat and eight Hamas leaders from the West Bank.

During the first meeting, 'Arafat was briefed on the views of Hamas leaders living abroad regarding agreement with the Palestinian Authority [PA]. The second meeting was more interesting. It dealt specifically with what the Hamas representatives told 'Arafat about the issues under discussion by both sides.

Hamas' leaders voiced satisfaction with the imminent transfer of power to the Palestinians in the West Bank. They declared that they recognize "the PA as the only authority" regardless of Hamas' political attitude toward it.

The Hamas leaders told 'Arafat that the Israeli army's redeployment in the West Bank is a good opportunity to build a homeland, end the Palestinian people's hardships, and raise their living standards. They added that they are looking forward to coexistence between the PA and the opposition according to the rule of law and benefiting from past experiences.

The Hamas representatives said that some groups do not want the PA and Hamas to reach agreement and will try to thwart it. They noted, however, that they will resist these attempts for the sake of coexistence and development.

'Arafat addressed the Hamas leaders with these words: "We support pluralism but oppose the existence of more than one authority." He added: "We are not placing any restrictions on political pluralism. We are on the threshold of an historic stage that requires us to show solidarity. We have made our first step toward our objective of establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. We need common denominators to build this homeland on democratic foundations. The National Authority belongs to all of you. It is the forerunner of all other Palestinian state institutions. Since the state belongs to all its citizens, the public has the right to put the right person in the right place.

'Arafat told the Hamas leaders: "The Israeli opposition now understands the agreements we have signed. It is no longer impermissible for Israeli officials to use the term: Palestinian state." 'Arafat urged Fatah, the largest Palestinian faction, and Hamas to reach an immediate agreement.

During the same meeting, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, who has been instructed by 'Arafat to supervise the status of ties to Hamas, announced: "While 'Arafat belongs to all parties, I wish to convey the position of Fatah and the PA's departments, including security services. We have begun building the foundations of the Palestinian state. We cannot build a state while armed militias still operate. We want a model state, not a Somalia or Afghanistan."

'Abd-al-Rahim told the Hamas leaders: "There can be no authority apart from the National Authority in this state. It is the only party that will provide security to the citizens and the country. Therefore it is necessary to discuss the issue of weapons. All individually owned weapons must be licensed by the proper PA departments. I hope Hamas will maintain one position. We do not want to be told that such and such a stance is the position of the Hamas people inside the territories and that its leaders abroad have a different stance. Without this we cannot have an agreement."

'Abd-al-Rahim pointed out that he says this because of "the Gaza experience." He said: "Every time we would reach an agreement with Hamas in Gaza, its followers in certain capitals would violate it, causing a reversal."

'Abd-al-Rahim stressed that the PA believes in "the need for all Palestinian groups to participate in building Palestine." Addressing the Hamas leaders, he said: "Perhaps you do not want to participate on the ministerial level. However, some of your leaders, some sitting with us now, operate within the PA's establishment, particularly the al-Awqaf and religious trusts, and President 'Arafat sponsors and supports this." 'Abd-al-Rahim said: "We will pass a party law after discussion."

Jamil Hammami, a prominent Hamas leader in the West Bank, commented on 'Abd-al-Rahim's remarks during the meeting. He said: "It is inadmissible to have several authorities. We in the Islamic movement will not strip the PA of its role." He added: "We honestly and frankly admit that we have reservations about the agreement with the Israelis, and the reservations will continue. However, we wish the PA success in its work and move to the West Bank so that we may feel the freedom our people want." He continued: "The Islamic movement is on a new course which requires dialogue that guarantees coexistence, to continue what has been started, and to leave behind the old rhetoric." He said: "Shedding Palestinian blood is taboo for us. There are parties who want friction among us." He said that it is inadmissible for any group in the Islamic movement to conclude an agreement and later rescind it."

Responding to his remarks, 'Abd-al-Rahim said: "I would like to point out that the use of slander, defamation, and terming people as traitors has marred previous dialogue." He said that this must stop and we must use proper language. He said this negative language had been used in the mosques, leaving a negative impact on the masses.

Regarding 'Arafat's meeting with the mediation delegation that returned from Khartoum, 'Abd-al-Rahim said an important development occurred in the dialogue with the Islamic movement. The mediation delegation conveyed to 'Arafat that the movement is serious about holding a comprehensive, irreversible, and unconditional dialogue in order to reach an agreement with the PA. He added that the mediation delegation also conveyed to 'Arafat that Hamas' desires a solution covering all issues, including military action. 'Abd-al-Rahim described this as "a positive development, because Hamas had previously considered military action as a taboo nonnegotiable topic."

The mediation delegation told 'Arafat: "The Hamas negotiating delegation has changed. Previously, it consisted of members from the Gaza Strip. The current delegation is made up of members from the West Bank, Gaza, and abroad. This will make the agreement binding to all parties." The delegation also told 'Arafat that it advised the Hamas leaders abroad that "failure of the current experiment will have a negative impact."

The Hamas leadership abroad told the mediation committee with which it met that it does not intend to cause future problems for the PA. It is serious about achieving a new relationship and maintaining the opposition's democratic right to express its views.

Official on Abu-Marzuq, PA Dialogue

JN1910163295 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Oct 95 p 22

["Exclusive" interview with Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, by Kamal Zakarinah in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Zakarinah] Where did the dialogue between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement reach?

[Nazzal] The ball is in the PA's court now. We are prepared for dialogue. When we met in Khartoum, we told the mediation delegation that we are prepared for dialogue with the PA after an invitation extended by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab and Islamic Public Conference, to the two parties to meet in Khartoum.

[Zakarinah] Did the idea of turning Hamas into a political party crystallize and will the Movement take part in the upcoming Palestinian elections and in the PA bodies?

[Nazzal] Hamas will not become a political party as long as the occupation of our territories continues. Forming an Islamic political party depends on an agreement among many Islamic figures. For its part, Hamas left the door open for its elements and cadres to join the party according to each one's desire and not as an obligation.

[Zakarinah] What has Hamas done and what is it doing regarding the detention of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq in the United States and Israel's demand to extradite him? This is given that the PA and the Jordanian Government began to coordinate joint action to release Abu-Marzuq and prevent his extradition to Israel.

[Nazzal] Hamas is moving in four axes — political, legal, media, and public — to pressure the U.S. Administration into releasing Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq. We believe the arrest of Abu-Marzuq is illogical since he did not violate U.S. laws. However, his arrest on behalf of Israel represents a collusion that indicates the U.S. Administration's bias toward the Israeli side.

[Zakarinah] What is the state of coordination between Hamas leaders inside and outside the territories? Do they have different views on dealing with the PA?

[Nazzal] Hamas is a cohesive movement and its actions are harmonious among its parties inside and outside the territories. This does not mean that there are no differences of viewpoints whether on dealing with the PA or any other authority. We view differences as a natural phenomenon that enriches the movement and guides its march. However, the presence of differences does not prevent reaching an agreement in the end on a united stand, to which all the Movement's parties are committed.

The fact that some are wagering on divisions within Hamas's ranks falls within the framework of wishes and desires and not within the framework of facts. If they have succeeded in the past decades in splitting various Palestinian organizations, this does not mean they will succeed in doing so to Hamas.

[Zakarinah] To what extent did coordination between Hamas and Palestinian opposition factions take place?

[Nazzal] The Alliance of Palestinian Forces is assessing its past and future march. We are taking part with our brothers in the opposition factions in this. We hope that this assessing will yield useful conclusions to develop the Palestinian opposition inside and outside the territories.

[Zakarinah] What does Hamas want from the current peace process in order to stop its military operations against Israel? Is it thinking about halting these operations now?

[Nazzal] Hamas believes that what has been taking place since the beginning of the negotiations is not peace but capitulation. The Oslo agreement and the Cairo and Taba agreements which followed confirm that what is happening is a consecration and legitimization of the occupation. Hence, Hamas Movement will continue its resistance against the occupation until it is removed. The resistance will stop once the occupation is removed.

Hamas Official Disputes Remarks Attributed to Yasin

NC1910192095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Interview with Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given; from the "News and Reports" feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Zionist radio has carried remarks attributed to Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. The radio claimed that His Eminence Shaykh Yasin stated that the agreement between the Zionists and the PLO cannot be ignored and that any armed action that leads to inter-Palestinian confrontation is rejected. What is your information on these alleged remarks?

[Nazzal] We treat reports attributed to Shaykh Ahmad Yasin with caution and reservation. This is because Shaykh Yasin is imprisoned and we cannot trust the remarks attributed to him—he could be misquoted, his words misinterpreted, or words could be put in his mouth. Thus, we receive all such remarks with reservation and do not take them seriously. Shaykh Ahmad Yasin is in jail. When he is outside jail and can speak without pressure or domination, then we can treat his remarks seriously.

[Correspondent] Some observers see in these remarks attributed to him, and in other remarks attributed to Shaykh al-Bahr, an attempt to create two opinions within Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], one inside and one outside. How do you view these attempts and how far could the Oslo [Palestinian] authorities be successful in attaining, even partially, this goal?

[Nazzal] I want to say that the Palestinian Authority is trying through its various agencies to create division along this line both inside and outside by propagating such reports. Hamas is a solid movement and a movement that deals with Palestinian reality through an integrated policy in all geographical locations. Any attempt to divide those inside from those outside is doomed to fail, God willing. Thus, judging things on the basis of remarks made here or there and attempts to twist or misinterpret statements will not succeed in leading things toward a course other than the correct course.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Nazzal] God bless you.

'Arafat To Lead Delegation to Amman Summit

JN1610141695 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian Charge d'Affaires in Amman 'Umar al-Khatib says the Palestine National Authority [PNA] will take part in the Amman economic summit. He said the PNA delegation will be chaired by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Mr. al-Khatib said the PNA considers itself a partner to the summit, since Jordanian and Palestinian benefits are the same. He voiced appreciation of the Kingdom's preparations to ensure the success of the conference. The charge d'affaires pointed out that Jordan, the PNA, Egypt, and Israel have agreed on regional projects that will be submitted to the summit.

Bahr: 'Arafat May Sign Accord After Return

TA2010111195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader in the Gaza Strip, said that the organization is awaiting 'Arafat's return from overseas to meet with him and that an agreement with the Palestinian Authority [PA] might then be reached. Bahr said that despite the differences of opinion between the Hamas leadership abroad and the leadership in the territories, it is the view of the majority that will decide whether there will be a reconciliation with the PA. He denied that Hamas receives its orders from outsiders, such as Iran, Sudan, and Algeria, and said that it makes its decisions independently.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the Islamic Jihad also expressed an interest in the possibility of reaching an agreement with the PA and is now waiting to see what happens to the conciliatory contacts between Hamas and the PA.

PSD Condemns Israeli Action Against al-Rujub

JN1910220995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Oct

[FBIS Translated Text] The Preventive Security Department [PSD] in Jericho issued a statement condemning the action by an Israeli patrol in the West Bank against Colonel Jibril al-Rujub, director of the PSD, while he was visiting Ramallah today.

The statement said this measure is a flagrant violation of the spirit of the peace agreement, that it is a link in a series of practices by certain Israeli parties aiming to harm the peace process. The statement denied allegations by Israeli radio regarding this incident.

Poll: 73% for Peace, 56% Against Israel's Existence

TA1310171695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The latest opinion poll amongst Palestinians shows that almost 73 percent support the peace process, and less than 18 percent oppose it.

The poll, by the Jerusalem Media and Communications Center, also showed that almost 55 percent of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza do not believe that Prime Minister Rabin is sincere about implementing the interim agreement.

Despite support for the peace process, more than 56 percent of those interviewed said they did not believe Israel has a right to exist.

'Jewish Extremists' Bid To Storm Mosque Foiled

JN1910161595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Guards of al-Aqsa Mosque foiled an attempt by Jewish extremists to break into the holy shrine this afternoon. The Jewish extremists tried to storm the mosque yesterday, but the guards stopped them and closed the mosque gates.

Activist Sees Secular Groups Gaining Strength

TA1910175495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Popular Front and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP and DFLP, respectively] are holding discussions aimed at forming a coalition of secular Palestinian groups opposed to the Oslo agreements. Smaller left-wing Palestinian groups are also considering joining the new grouping. Reporter Mark Weiss spoke with Muhammad Jadallah, a senior West Bank activist of the DFLP, and asked him about the position of the secular opposition in the run-up to the Palestinian elections.

[Begin recording] [Jadallah] Well, I think that the whole Palestinian society is living nowadays a sort of internal hot discussions, responsible ones, so as to face the coming era. Everybody feels that the signing of the Taba agreement, or Oslo 2, is going to open a new chapter in the Palestinian political life. And, as an important and basic element of the Palestinian political life — the DFLP, the PFLP, the People's Party, and many other democrats within the Palestinian society — are going to take part and to participate in the life of the Palestinians in the future.

[Weiss] There are reports that much of the secular opposition to Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority [PA] has lost support since the implementation of the first Oslo agreement. Did you feel this on the ground?

[Jadallah] Well, I think that the Palestinian people, in the last few years, they have been subject to difficult situations and they have been, in the last few months, apathetic by what Oslo 2 offered to them. But I believe that the Palestinian people will continue to fight so as to achieve their national rights and to be equal with those of the rest of the peoples in the world. The Palestinians are firm in their position, although there are some disappointments and frustration from the outcome of the negotiations with Israel and, of course, because the PA has not been at the level of expectations of the Palestinian people.

[Weiss] What do you expect would happen when the Palestinian elections take place? Are you worried that there will be overwhelming support for the PA, Fatah?

[Jadallah] No doubt that Fatah enjoys the support of a good percentage of the Palestinian people, but it does not enjoy the majority. Even if they can make a coalition with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], still I think that the secular groups have a lot to say and they can reduce the majority of voters to their accounts. I think that the secular groups still enjoy a lot of support within the Palestinian society and, if they take the right step in the right direction concerning the Palestinian elections, the Palestinian Council will not be the voice of the actual leadership of the Palestinians.

[Weiss] And, are efforts still continuing to bring the leadership from abroad, Nayif Hawatimah and George Habash, to Gaza?

[Jadallah] No doubt about that. This is one of the basic rights of all Palestinians. Hawatimah and Habash are the ones who have the right the same as 3.5 million Palestinians who are living in the diaspora. They have the right to return and to enjoy living in their homeland. [end recording]

Official Says Bank Deposits Total $1 Billion

JN1910182395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Oct 95 pp 3, 17

[Report by Khalid al-Zubaydi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Monetary Authority [PMA] Governor Dr. Fu'ad Hamdi Bisaysu stated that the deposits of the banks operating in the Palestinian territories total approximately $1 billion according to the latest statistics compiled by the PMA.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Dr. Bisaysu added that he has held important talks with Finance Minister Basil Jardanah and Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, Central Bank governor, to consummate coordination and consultations in the context of the banking agreement signed between the two sides. They also reviewed the latest developments in the Jordanian monetary policy and their repercussions on the Palestinian territories. He noted that an agreement has been reached on a host of coordination moves aimed at promoting the role of the banking sector so that it may contribute to the development endeavor in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Bisaysu criticized the low ratio of loans to deposits in the Palestinian territories, saying: "We are looking forward to a greater contribution by banks to the development endeavor. Banks must use the approved percentage of lending."

Regarding licenses for new banks in the Palestinian territories, Dr. Bisaysu said there is a need for new banks. However, he underlined the need to comply with the international Basel criteria regarding the adequacy of capital. He added that there is a need for specialized banks to encourage industry, agriculture, exports, etcetera.

Dr. Bisaysu pointed out that the Palestinian side is holding talks with the Israelis to renegotiate the economic protocol signed in Paris to improve the Palestinians' economic and monetary state of affairs. He added that the Paris protocol restricts the Palestinians' freedom of movement in the areas of monetary and economic affairs.

Dr. Bisaysu said that the issuance of Palestinian currency requires two to three years after an agreement is reached in this regard. He deemed the issuance of such currency an act of sovereignty. He noted that the Israelis realize, before anybody else, that the issue of establishing a Palestinian state is only a matter of time.

The Palestinian official thanked Jordan and the Central Bank of Jordan for the help it extended by way of providing the PMA with personnel and training. He concluded by saying that things are moving in the right direction.

Algeria

Bonn Warned of Violence if Arms Trade Interdicted

AU1910115195 Mainz ZDF Television Network in German 2145 GMT 18 Oct 95

[Report by Egmont Koch]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Koch] There is a man living in Diepholz, Lower Saxony, who claims that he can mediate in the conflict [between Algerian fundamentalists and the authorities] — Abdelkader Sahraoui. The Algerian business consultant, who holds a German passport, has excellent contacts in the Islamic world. However, a dubious light has been cast on his role behind the scenes of politics. Sahraoui, who sympathizes with the Islamists, is reportedly involved in arms deals by the GIA [Armed Islamic Group].

When the German Rudolf Kordes was released in Beirut after having been held hostage for almost two years, Sahraoui had mediated in Tehran. He was also able to get a friend of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter released from an Iranian prison.

From Germany, Sahraoui is fighting against the military junta in Algeria. It reacts to the fundamentalists' terrorism with equally bloody terrorism. Sahraoui's model is Shaykh Abassi Madani, the leader of the Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, who is currently in prison. In order to help Madani — Sahraoui says the Algerian people — to come to power, even the atrocities committed by GIA are justified.

[Sahraoui] Violence is legitimate, and I support this, because this is the only means for the Algerian people to be heard. The people who are ruling the country are not ethical. Any instrument aimed at removing the junta is legitimate.

[Koch] The (Bilal) Mosque in Aachen is considered the center of fundamentalist Muslims in Germany, including the Algerian extremists. The North Rhine-Westphalian Office for the Protection of the Constitution notes that the groups, which are active here, are ready to use a certain amount of violence. In France, the Islamists' criticism of French policy toward Algeria has long turned into sheer hatred. Is this now also imminent in our country?

Many FIS followers, who had to flee from their homeland and have found asylum in Germany, are organizing resistance against the Algerian regime from Aachen. This also goes for Usama Abassi, one of the sons of FIS leader Madani.

Sahraoui, who works together closely with Madani's sons, says that he is in favor of violence in Algeria but against violence in Europe. His words, however, easily convey a threat: No terrorism in Germany as long as the Islamists are permitted to operate from German territory without any hindrances.

[Sahraoui] As long as we get the feeling that your constitution is taken seriously, that you are not toying with human rights, we will be careful that nothing happens here. If we see that you are neo-colonialists, that you want to ruin our people, that you do not want partnership in the Mediterranean but supremacy, they will fight against you. You can arrest me today if this is really the case, because then I will be your enemy. If you ruin my people, I will rise up and fight against you. This is legitimate.

[Koch] Sahraoui's warning is addressed in particular to the Federal Office of Criminal Investigations [BKA], which has been investigating nine Algerians since the beginning of 1995 for membership in a criminal organization and arms smuggling. According to official information, three Islamists have been arrested. In fact, another two are also in detention pending trial — two son's of FIS leader Madani: Abu Abassi and Salim Abassi. However, it seems that the public is not supposed to hear about that.

[Sahraoui] I have established political contacts for them. They did excellent political work. They provided information, they neutralized the condemnation of Islam a bit in their meetings with legislators and industrialists. Arms deals were not an issue.

[Koch] It is a fact that Algerian Islamists have been smuggling handguns, guns, ammunition, and explosives from Aachen to their homeland already since 1993. According to findings by the BKA, Salim Abassi, for instance, was involved in the smuggling of Uzi and Scorpio submachine guns. Some deliveries of the Algerian arms smugglers were discovered in France, some of them in cars with German license plates.

[Sahraoui] Acquiring weapons abroad for Algeria — I am in favor of it. I am really in favor of it. I did not do it. This is not my task. But I can understand it.

[Koch] According to information obtained by the chief federal prosecutor's office, the German-Algerian business consultant seems indeed to have been involved in the arms smuggling. In May 1995 the federal prosecutors asked the Algerian justice authorities for findings about Salim Abassi, Shaykh Madani's son, and another eight Algerians, including Abdelkader Sahraoui.

At the end of September 1995 the response from Algiers arrived: An imprisoned GIA arms smuggler accused Sahraoui of having arranged the deliveries together with Salim Abassi. His statement: Abassi was introduced to me by Sahraoui. The goal of this contact was to organize the transfer of guns and military ammunition for the benefit of GIA.

[Sahraoui] Irrelevant. This is dirty. I will not play along with that. However, I tell you, it is a disgrace for Germany's constitution that there is this kind of cooperation with the junta. This is an insult to the German people. [passage omitted]

FIS Condemns Bombing, Chirac-Zeroual Meeting

LD1910154695 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The government of Liamine Zeroual is the main beneficiary of the terrorist attacks in France — this comment was made by former Algerian Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi.

The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], for its part, condemns the 17 October attack carried out in Paris, and at the same time the Algerian Islamist organization condemns the upcoming New York meeting between President Jacques Chirac and his Algerian counterpart, Liamine Zeroual. [passage omitted]

FIS Bulletin Criticizes Chirac-Zeroual Meeting

MM1910150995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 Oct 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Algerian Salvation Front: French Regime's Position Will Adversely Affect Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Paris, AL-HAYAH — The Algerian opposition yesterday stepped up its campaign against the presidential elections scheduled to be held next month. The National Covenant group, which comprises seven opposition parties, said that the elections will be a factor for "worsening the crisis." The Islamic Salvation Front said former Prime Minister Reda Malek's exclusion from the competition for the presidency means that the "struggle" inside the military establishment has been settled in favor of President Liamine Zeroual. And it warned France that "the Algerian people will not forget" its position in the light of the meeting scheduled to be held between Presidents Jacques Chirac and Zeroual in New York in about a week.

Chirac repeated yesterday his insistence on holding the meeting with Zeroual. He said at the cabinet meeting that the meeting does not mean France is biased toward any Algerian party. He reemphasized his belief that any solution to the Algerian crisis must be political and through dialogue. His position was announced on the day following the explosion in a Metro station in Paris, in which 28 people were wounded.

The AL-RIBAT bulletin, issued by "FIS supporters in Europe," said in yesterday's issue, of which AL-HAYAH has obtained a copy, that "France — which has helped the clique materially, informationally, and militarily, and whose president, Chirac, has announced that he will meet with the head of the putschists — has clearly declared its defiance of the majority of the Algerian people, who rejected the elections farce through the position of the National Covenant parties and who are not convinced of the justification for the [Chirac-Zeroual] meeting, considering it interference in their internal affairs that will affect relations between the two peoples in the future. As for the people's real representatives, they will not forget the French regime's position, which will adversely affect economic and culture relations by diversifying the Algerian market and increasing the number of its partners."

It [the bulletin] said that France "will reap thorns tomorrow from what it is planting today."

It said that Reda Malek's exclusion means that the "struggle" inside the military establishment, namely between the tendency recommending a civilian candidate for the presidency and the one supporting a military candidate (Zeroual) has been settled [in the latter's favor]. It said that "Reda Malek's exclusion from the competition is not attributable to his failure to obtain the required number of signatures, but is merely a withdrawal in Zeroual's favor." It said that the elections are "formal" and designed to "grant legitimacy" to the regime.

The National Covenant group issued a statement yesterday, of which AL-HAYAH has obtained a copy, reiterating its position opposed to the elections, "which do not reflect the people's will or have their approval." The group condemned "the illegal measures and pressures exerted on citizens to force them to choose something against their will." It said that "abstaining from voting is a form of expression that reflects the freedom to vote sanctioned for citizens by the Constitution." It also said that the elections will be a factor for "worsening the crisis and perpetuating the policy of confrontation and exclusion." It renewed its willingness to engage in negotiations with the regime to "secure a comprehensive and just political solution."

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS1910134495 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 17 Oct 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Algeria toward a dangerous political dead end!

Praise be to Allah Who Says: "To those against whom war is made, permission is given (to fight) because they are wronged, and verily, Allah is Most powerful for their aid" [Koran, Surat Al Hajj,22:39]

If one tries to analyse what has made a political party like the FIS, turn to arm struggle against the regime, one finds in the Koranic verse above all one needs to satisfy one's curiosity. The FIS has used all peaceful means in putting its points across and each time the regime reacted ferociously. The list of the regime's use of "political violence" against the FIS is very long and has started since its formation with the objective of a peaceful change through political activity.

The regime violence against the FIS has escalated from one stage to another. This violence manifested itself through political pressure against elected FIS mayors, to reprimanding a peaceful demonstration with blood after having given assurance by officials in the highest positions of the regime, to the illegal arrest and political trial and imprisonment of the FIS leaders...

Despite all these provocations, the FIS accepted to participate in the elections and won with a score higher than what any political party could dream of. The Military staged a coup d'Etat and canceled the people choice. Even at that point the FIS was still trying to avoid armed confrontation for the sake of the country and the Algerian people. The criminal Junta did not stop there. It pulled out its "big gun" and started a process of genocide against the Islamists in general and the FIS militants and supporters in particular. The still existing concentration camps in the Sahara are just one of the living proofs. At that time the above Koranic verse entered into application and no human being, no politician, no leader, no this and no that, has the power of depriving the Mujahedeen from their rights. People can always try to find a legitimate, just and fair solution. This is even encouraged in Islam. However, looking exclusively at the Mujahedeen armed struggle and call it violence that should cease while giving a blind eye on the real violence of the Junta which is armed to its teeth, thanks to external loans and debt rescheduling, is a biased political stand opposing those whom violence has been exercised against first.

An army who accepts orders to torture, to use Napalm against villages, a shot to kill policy against the Algerian people... is not the army of Algeria, the successor of the glorious ALN. It is an army in the hands of the Junta generals to fulfil their political ambition by perpetuating their stay in power. Those of the Junta troops who have joined their brothers have done good and those who have not, we pray Allah they do soon but meantime it is a war and each one must assume his responsibilities.

The Junta in need of respectability in the international circles has engaged a process of making one of its General a president. The FIS and the Mujahedeen do not recognise his illegitimate authority with niether a military costume nor civilian one. This personage has had more prerogatives in this state of exception that what a legitime elected president would ever dream of having. He has not solve nor reduce the crisis, on the contrary the problem is getting more complicated. These Junta elections will if one follow their logic, give him less prerogatives so how would he solve the problem?

These elections are taking the situation to a narrow dead end which will need more force in order to make a opening in the thick wall where Algeria is being forced against.

Those who can make the Algeria people believe that General Zeroual is the legitimate president of Algeria will have no problem in convincing them that 99.99 percent of our brothers Iraqis love the genocide perpetrator Saddam particularly after what they went through these past years!

The chess game of General H'mida!

Praise be to Allah Who Says: "Likewise did We make for every Messenger an enemy,-satans among men and jinns, inspiring each other with flowery discourses by way of deception. If thy lord had so wanted, they would not have done it: so leave them and what they forge.

To such (deceit) let the hearts of those incline, who have no faith in the Hereafter: and let them delight in it and let them earn from it what they may " [Koran, Surat Al-An'am, 6:112,113].

General Zeroual is already been nicknamed General H'mida in relation to an Algerian popular adage which describes the type of people who want to have full control of a situation in which they are players, referees and the ones who make the rules. A rough translation of the adage is: H'mida the player, H'mida the referee (Al-laab H'mida wa Ar-rasham H'mida!).

One needs to see the facts before calling General Zeroual, General H'mida.

The first sign of General Zeroual dishonesty was detected during the period prior to 01/11/94 when he announced his project of "Presidential elections". He had talk with many opposition parties and each time he surprised them by publicly declaring things which was not part of the talks and many time contrary to their contents.

Another important sign was when he hurried and changed the composition of the so-called "constitutional consul" in April 1995. The new members were automatically designated by this General who is the product of the illegal coup d'Etat of January 1992. This is an important information for those who may see a legal basis for the coming Junta elections. According to the electoral rules in place, the "constitutional consul" has the last word about the legibility of the candidate as well as officially approving the final results.

Few weeks after the illegal changes in the "constitutional consul", General Zeroual introduced a new electoral law voted by a parliament which members have ALL been designated by the Junta who has committed the ILLEGAL coup d'Etat of 1992. This new law was approved by the modified "constitutional consul".

General Zeroual has kept his candidacy secret until last minute to mislead people who may think that those elections are genuine. This in itself, is a dishonest gesture.

General Zeroual who is described by the "very independent" official French news agency AFP as " the favourite candidate", the one who is so modest that "he presented the sponsoring signatures himself even though he was exempt from sponsoring by law", is using demagogy full speed. The law the AFP is talking about may apply for an elected president who is already in office. General Zeroual is not, he is General Zeroual the acting head of the military Junta, the usurper of power by force!

The administration under the Junta Prime minister Mokdad Sifi who was personally brought to office by the same General Zeroual, claims neutrality in these "elections" but the way it has been presenting the sponsoring signature numbers, is in itself an electoral campaign for the winner of the future election: General Zeroual, again. The "neutral administration" under the leadership of General Zeroual's buddy Sifi, has presented the signature results in a way as to prepare the public opinion to "swallow the big fish to come". One can read that General Zeroual has scored far better in candidate X's hometown, Blida. The administration "forgets" to add that in Blida, the concentration of Junta military men is big.

Redha Malek the Junta ex-prime minister is believed to know how to count to 75 000 signatures. However he presented his candidacy file to the modified constitutional consul and it was made public that Redha Malek had the necessary number of sponsoring signatures. The "modified constitutional consul" rejected the candidacy of the eradicator Redha Malek, why? Because General Zeroual despite the fact that he is the designated (not by the Algerian people) winner would love if by miracle the Algerian people show him some support he can bargain with inside the Junta hierarchy. So he does not want to see Redha Malek "fishing" along side with him in the same river not matter how small it is!

The general opinion of the people is that General Zeroula has not only already won his elections according to his rule but he won it in the first round. No chance for the "dreamers" to "dream again" about an alliance of civilians against the Military for the second round. The Junta is immune from "second rounds" since January 1992.

Signs do point out that General Zeroual is indeed equivalent to General H'mida playing against his follow Junta Generals in a game of which the Algerian people are not part of it at all!

Who is running against whom in "these elections"!

In countries where genuine elections take place, contestants campaign against each other. Each candidate try to prove to the people that his program is the best and that his opponents' are bad for the people. In Algeria a new phenomena is taking place during the electoral campaign of these "elections". The antagonists do not seem to have difference of opinion with respect to one another but all and each one of them seem to have problems with those who have decided not to take part in those "elections". Some of the candidates are waving a war against the FLN [National Liberation Front] party, other against the FFS [socialist Forces Front] party and all against the FIS. This is indeed a good sign which shows that the Algerian people have not change their minds after all this oppression, to a point of making the candidates of these "elections" feel obliged to consider the winner of the 1992 free elections as the REAL political opposition against which electoral campaigns should be directed. When the subconscience can not hold it anymore!

The UN general secretary and France!

According to the French magazine "L'EXPRESS" of the 05/10/95, Mr Butrus Ghali has a privileged relationship with France, following is the integrality of the article published in page 20: "As the mandate of the General secretary of the UN finishes at the end of 1996, France, which has played a key role in the election of Butrus Butrus-Ghali, is worried about the numbers of enemies made by this francophile. His age (72), his bad temper and more over his enmity in Washington are all obstacles for his re-election. In a last resort, some French officials have expressed a wish for reforming the period in office of the general secretary of the UN from the actual five years to seven."[End of article]

President Chirac's trip to New York and the UN observers!

The Junta in Algeria has asked the UN to send observers to check the "elections" which are planned by the Junta to take place in 350 000 voting bureaux. The UN responded by agreeing to send a symbolic number of observers (six to be exact) which is well below the requirement for the UN to authenticate the fairness of these "elections". The motives advanced by the UN administration is a cautious one. The UN puts the blame on budget pressure thus avoiding political arguments. However the coming trip of President Chirac to New York has already let some observers to conclude that he will try to influence the UN administration decision to increase the number of observers given that France is an influent member of the security consul and an important fund provider.

Has Chirac decided to show his game about Algeria at last?

The French president was seen coming to declare his "neutrality" in the Algerian conflict. He was seen in Tunisia exalting a system that can still deliver presidents with 99.99 percent in.1995. He was seen coming to give the Muslims lessons from their Karaouan on what Islam they should follow as if there were more than one. He was seen coming when from the same Tunisia he "ignored" the screams of thousands of "forgotten" Islamist who are perishing in the Tunisian dictator's jails. He was seen coming when he forbade to his ministers to make any declarations concerning Algeria. He was seen coming trying to make a "rapprochement" with the dictators of Libya and Iraq. Now, Chirac opens his game and announced that he will meet the head of the illegal and illegitimate military Junta who has "spit" on the Algerian people free choice. This meeting will take place two weeks before the Junta elections. What is the significance of this meeting? If the important thing is what will be discussed or to say it straight, what instructions will be given, the meeting is also "heavy in symbols". President Chirac could well have waited two week before congratulating General Zeroual and people could even say that he did not know that the elections were a mere show conducted from end to end by the Junta. After the heavy involvement of France since the beginning of the recent Algerian tragedy, this meeting has come to encourage the Junta in its crimes against the Algerian people.

It looks like President Chirac has chosen the side of the dictators against the people for the sake of "la grandeur de la France" dear to the Gaullism movement. However the underlying cultural and economic hegemony conveyed by a pre-May 68 rhetoric can be damaging to the relationship between France and the Algerian people. The appeal to the people or not of a civilisation, a culture or a language, depends on what values they are conveying. When universal values such as liberty, equality fraternity were transported through the French culture and language, these latter were indeed a pole of attraction. But when racist poison of Le Pen, intolerance of Francois Bayrou, radiation contamination from nuclear testing to which the whole world is against, unconditional support to dictators in their oppressive war against the people at the top of which are the "butchers" of Algiers, are the values transported, one does not get surprised to see "la grandeur de la France" shrinking to the limits of the "hexagone" and may be further. This is not the Algerian people problem nor the fault of Islamists.

The Islamists were relieved when President Chirac decided to show his stand and did not let the Algerian people with a false hope as he publicly declared the neutrality of France in the Algerian conflict. President Chirac statement has remind many of the misleading and enigmatic double-talk of General De Gaulle when he said his historic "Je vous ai compris" and...the Algerian war doubled in atrocity. Signs are pointing to the fact that the actual war in Algeria is probably here to stay for long!

Opposition Criticizes Chirac's Election Support

BR1910145695 Paris LIBERATION in French
19 Oct 95 p 12

[Interview with Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front, by Jose Garcon; place and date not given: "France Supports Bogus Election in Algeria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Garcon] How do you assess the meeting between Chirac and Zeroual?

[Abdelhamid] The problem is not the meeting itself, but the context in which the meeting is to be held and the statements that have preceded it. Should we treat such a serious crisis as Algeria's with a bogus election? We reject a travesty of democracy, because a political and democratic solution is the only alternative to all forms of extremism.

[Garcon] Do you think that it [the meeting] is a show of support?

[Abdelhamid] Judging by France's statements before the announcement of the meeting, they would appear to be endorsing the presidential election, and then the legislative elections, as a second step. I doubt that the first step will really go in the right direction. France is supporting a sham democracy and elections which are not free. The Algerian people have seen all kinds of elections. They know the value of universal suffrage and the value of the voting slip. They have agreed to make enormous sacrifices for genuine liberation. I do not think that they can accept a sham solution to the crisis that consists of a sham election.

[Garcon] Paris says that Jacques Chirac will ask Liamine Zeroual to organize legislative elections after the presidential election. Are you in favor of the that?

[Abdelhamid] The problem is not knowing what elections to organize, but what kind of elections they actually are. Elections which exclude part of the Algerian population, and which are held under a state of emergency and in the absence of any public, individual, or group liberties, are a sham.

[Garcon] Does France have a role to play in Algeria?

[Abdelhamid] The density of relations between the two countries means that France cannot afford not to take an interest in what happens in Algeria. I do not think I have the right to tell it what path to take in order to place these relations at a real level that is of interest to both people. Furthermore, any solution must first of all come from all Algerians, and the real interest of the Algerians does not necessarily run counter to the real interest of our European partners.

[Garcon] Is the policy of other southern European countries to Algeria really any different from France's policy?

[Abdelhamid] First of all, everyone has demanded genuine elections, but the current trend seems to be to support the elections as they are. So that leads one to wonder whether democracy is the same on both sides of the Mediterranean, or if there is a "second-rate" democracy that they are going to persuade the Algerian people to accept.

[Garcon] France says that it is helping the "Algerian people" economically, not the Algerian Government. What do you think of that?

[Abdelhamid] While France intends to help the Algerian people, it should be known that the facilities and liquidities freed up by the rescheduling of the debt are not being used solely to benefit the Algerian people. Nevertheless, this is a matter which concerns Algerians and their current authorities.

[Garcon] Would you take the French authorities at their word by asking to meet with them, since they say they are meeting with people who represent the full Algerian political spectrum?

[Abdelhamid] Part of the opposition has always shown its willingness to provide information about the Algerian crisis. The signatories of the "national contract" in Rome did their utmost to make the necessary clarifications on this "peace offering."

[Garcon] According to the French Government this initiative is outmoded.

[Abdelhamid] They want to bury it, yet it is still valid. It is very comprehensive, but very pragmatic at the same time. In other words, it is rather flexible as regards the way in which the political solution we recommend should be applied. On the other hand, the approach taken with the presidential election is quite rough, and also debases a genuine democracy to the benefit of a sham election and therefore a sham democracy.

[Garcon] In your opinion, will the upcoming presidential election not bring any solution to the crisis?

[Abdelhamid] It is already bringing fresh restrictions on liberties and stepping up the muzzling of the opposition. For example, following recent orders issued by the Communication Ministry, the press releases published by the opposition in the form of publicity posters must be subject to "prior checks."

[Garcon] Do you think that the Algerians will turn out to vote?

[Abdelhamid] Many of those who do will be forced to. There is so much pressure that some Algerians may vote reluctantly. It remains to be seen how many will turn out. And will we really be able to attach any value to the official results?

[Garcon] Are the attacks in France a direct result of France's policy?

[Abdelhamid] They are linked both to the fallout from the Algerian crisis and to the restrictions of a certain integration policy.

[Garcon] Do you think they will continue.

[Abdelhamid] I cannot answer that, as I am not in touch with the situation in France. However, I have noticed that over the past year many Algerians have been arrested, but that there has been a failure to neutralize those who set the bombs.

World Bank Official Hails Economic Reforms

LD2010070195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In economy, the World Bank hailed the Algerian economic program as the best program for the past 20 years despite the political and economic conditions facing the country. The World

Bank promised further important aid if the Algerian government continues such a performance.

The Algerian economic situation, despite the delicate juncture, has imposed itself on the international financial institutions. Koji Kashiwaya, the vice president of the World Bank for the Middle East and North Africa, praised the Algerian government's management of the national economy, the best of its kind for the past 20 years, with the help of the IMF and the World Bank despite the very difficult political climate in the country.

He reiterated the World Bank's happiness over the privatization program which touched small companies in construction, farming and trade sectors.

Algeria's hard currency reserves reached $2.39 billion in the first half of this year against $2.6 billion in the whole of last year.

Also, the rescheduling of the country's foreign debts in 1994 has given the Algerian treasury, whose income from taxation had decreased because of the economic decline, particularly in the public sector which recorded a 9 percent decline in the first half of this year in new sources of income.

Nonetheless, Kashiwaya wondered about the effectiveness of the economic reforms which have been supported by the IMF and the World Bank in resolving the country's economic structures, particularly the privatization program.

Kashiwaya concluded his statement by reiterating: We will agree another important program for Algeria in the next few years — new important credits, if the Algerian goverment shows ability to continue such a performance.

Egypt

Defense Minister on U.S. Visit, Sudan

NC2010081595 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 12-18 Oct 95 , p 5

[Interview with Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, commanding general of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, by Jamal Nassar in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Nassar] You have paid visits to several states in the East and West, including the United States, China and Pakistan, for military talks. What does Egypt stand to gain from these visits?

[Tantawi] We in the armed forces are intent on keeping abreast with the latest advances in military science and armament technology. There is no doubt that these visits contribute greatly to promoting cooperation and coordination with these states, thus fulfilling the needs of our armed forces and giving a boost to our military industry.

As a result of this cooperation, our armed forces have made numerous gains. These include both the acquisition of new armaments, and cooperation in the manufacture of new armaments, such as warplanes, battle tanks, air defence equipment, automatic control and command systems and electronic warfare equipment.

We also gain from the military expertise of these states, particularly the United States, by sending our officers for advanced studies in their military institutes.

[Nassar] What about your forthcoming visit to the US this month? It has been said that your talks in Washington will focus on military aid to Egypt and the acquisition of new weapons either on easy credit terms or from the American military surplus. Is this true?

[Tantawi] Egyptian-American military relations have assumed new dimensions and new forms following the 1973 War, when the United States realised that Egypt had credibility, whether in war or peace, and that its regional role could not be ignored.

These relations, which are beneficial to the interests of the two countries, are now pivotal in their policies and strategies. There is no doubt that American military aid to Egypt is a bulwark for our objective of raising the combat efficiency of our armed forces.

This aid takes the form of an annual grant, joint exercises and continuous coordination and has reached an apex with the joint production of the ultra-modern M1A1 battle tank.

For its part, the United States, convinced of the credibility of Egyptian policy and its wise approach to regional and international problems, is seeking to realise stability and balance in this region which has great importance for the whole world and the United States in particular.

Egypt, for its part, seeks to benefit from this relationship by acquiring new expertise and advanced technology and building up an advanced military industry. Egyptian-American military cooperation has scored great successes during the past years and we are intent on promoting this cooperation further. Consequently, we expect that these relations will develop further, both in its form and its extent, to serve regional peace and stability, as well as the common national objectives of the two countries.

As for my visit to the United States, I was invited by my dear friend, Defence Secretary William Perry, during his visit to Egypt in January 1995. The purpose is to follow up the meetings of a military coordination committee and work together to implement its recommendations. This visit will be a meeting of friends because we are intent on affirming the bonds of friendship and also on working together for world peace, security and prosperity.

[Nassar] The US Congress has issued a report criticising the high cost of the assembly of the M1A1 battletank in Egypt and recommending that the assembly lines be converted for the production of armoured vehicles or tractors. What is your response and what are the future prospects of this project?

[Tantawi] It is natural that the cost would be high in the early stages of production. This had been anticipated before launching such a major industrial project, and yet the armed forces decided to go ahead with the project.

The assembly lines do not only produce the M1A1 tank but undertake the repairs of this tank as well as the M1A2 tank which is in service in some states of the region. They can also be used in manufacturing or modernising heavy mechanical equipment.

Feasibility studies are underway to develop the assembly lines to turn out new products that can be exported. The boost this project gave to the Egyptian military industry outweighs the high cost.

It is expected that this project will generate revenue by marketing its products, such as M1A1 parts, and its services, to the states of the Middle East.

[Nassar] Egypt recently received F-16 jetfighters assembled in Turkey, and it has been said that Egypt manufactures parts for these warplanes. Is this true, and does the Egyptian air force plan to acquire even more advanced warplanes such as the F-15 or the F-18?

[Tantawi] The acquisition of the latest types of warplanes is one of the major objectives of our air force and this has been accomplished in cooperation with friendly countries as the United States, France and China.

Egypt recently received a number of American F-16 jetfighters. In view of the proximity of Turkey, and as part of the growing cooperation between Turkey and Egypt, the planes were assembled in Turkey, according to American specifications.

As a result of the great confidence the American side has in the Egyptian military industry, our factories are now manufacturing parts for advanced American warplanes such as the F-16.

At present, Egypt is cooperating with friendly countries in the manufacture of warplanes, and light aircraft such as the Hulwan and Jumhuriyah have been produced.

The Egyptian Air Force has an arsenal of modern warplanes capable of securing Egyptian air space. There is no doubt that other types of warplanes, despite their high combat efficiency, would not constitute a significant addition to the combat capability of the Egyptian Air Force.

[Nassar] Egypt recently staged joint naval maneuvers with friendly countries in the Red Sea and the Mediterranean. Will there be more exercises in the future and what plans are being made for modernising the naval forces?

[Tantawi] The armed forces believe in the importance and necessity of staging joint exercises with sister and friendly states as a means of exchanging expertise and becoming acquainted with the modern armaments they possess. These exercises have contributed to raising the combat efficiency of our naval forces. They also laid the groundwork for cooperation between our forces and these friendly countries in protecting vital interests in the Red Sea and Mediterranean.

Within the framework of joint cooperation with friendly countries, preparations are being made for the Bright Star 95 exercise which will be staged in November and will involve a number of friendly Arab and foreign states.

The importance of joint training was apparent during the Kuwait liberation war because it facilitated the coordination of combat operations.

As for modernising the naval forces, and despite the exorbitant cost, the general command of the armed forces is making major efforts to meet the requirements of the naval forces whether by modernising armaments already in our possession or acquiring new arms and technology.

There is no doubt that the Egyptian naval forces, with their great combat ability and expertise, have a prominent position among the states of the region. Cooperation between the naval forces and other sectors of the armed forces is also essential in modern warfare, with air defence forces protecting the naval pieces.

[Nassar] How is the Egyptian military industry faring and what plans are being made to develop it further?

[Tantawi] At first the military industry partially manufactured some types of ammunition for mortars and artillery, but now it fully manufactures all types of ammunition, whether eastern or western, already in service, as well as all types of small and medium weapons.

They also participate in the partial manufacture of heavy equipment and weapons such as the M1A1 tank, the

122mm howitzers, [infrared] optical equipment as well as the jeeps now in service with the American army.

This has contributed greatly to fulfilling the needs of the armed forces and realising self-sufficiency in several sectors. There are plans to develop the military industry further in accordance with the needs of our armed forces as well as those of the armed forces of some friendly countries.

[Nassar] Have regional changes led to a change in the Egyptian military strategy and what are the broad lines of this strategy

[Tantawi] The Egyptian military creed is based on achieving "peace that is protected by force". Our concept of peace goes beyond the Egyptian borders to encompass the Arab homeland, within a world where peace and security prevail. The broad lines of Egyptian national strategy include:

— belief in religious values which is offset by opposition to all forms of extremism.

— (Socio-economic) development to realise security and prosperity for the Egyptian people.

— promoting relations with the Arab world and affirming commitment to the charter of the Arab League.

— commitment to peace and peaceful solutions to international problems, although we may resort to armed conflict in a situation which affects national security or to defend our national interests against direct threats.

— participation through regional and international organizations in upholding international legality and maintaining balanced relations with all states of the world.

— commitment to removing all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East.

[Nassar] What preparations are being made for the Bright Star exercise, and is it true that it will include Arab and Western states in addition to the United States?

[Tantawi] Joint exercises are the highest form of training and are greatly beneficial to the participants. Egypt has great expertise in desert warfare and this is why many advanced countries seek to participate in joint exercises with us in order to benefit from our expertise. We also benefit by becoming acquainted with the latest advances in military science and technology.

The Bright Star exercise is held every two years and is one of the largest exercises that take place in the Middle East. It requires joint and thorough planning because each side wants to include certain operations such as dropping paratroopers on land or the sea, the storming of positions, the delivery of air strikes, the confrontation of air strikes etc...

We welcome the participation of any friendly country and, in fact, forces from the United Kingdom, France and the United Arab Emirates in addition to the United States, will take part in Bright Star 95. There will also be observers from Germany, Italy, Turkey and Greece and observers from seven Arab and Islamic states — Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Morocco, Jordan and Pakistan.

While peace prevails in the region, our armed forces are upgrading their capabilities, focusing on quality and not quantity, because, as I said, peace needs force to protect it. We need peace for all the states of the world, particularly the states of the region, so that we may devote ourselves to economic development. As long as we are strong and our armed forces have the highest degree of combat efficiency and vigilance, the chances of war, or the threat of war, will be greatly reduced.

[Nassar] What is the situation along the southern border with Sudan in view of the Sudanese claim that there is a buildup of Egyptian troops seeking to impose a status quo in the Hala'ib-Shalatayn triangle? How are we reacting to the Sudanese provocations and what are the services provided by the armed forces to the inhabitants of the triangle?

[Tantawi] The Sudanese regime has revived the problem of the Hala'ib triangle in order to divert attention from the big problems facing the Sudanese people and the regime's inability to deal with these problems. The economic situation is deteriorating constantly. The war in the south continues and there are no signs that its end is approaching. And because of its support for and export of terrorism, the Sudanese regime is facing economic and political isolation.

Consequently, the Sudanese government revived the Hala'ib triangle dispute, but failed to achieve its target. The Sudanese government is turning a blind eye to the Sudanese Constitution of 1953 which clearly states that the 22nd parallel is the borderline between Egypt and Sudan. North of this line, Egyptian border guards are positioned to protect our borders against acts of infiltration and smuggling.

As for the Sudanese provocations, we are stressing the following facts: Sudan is a neighbourly country that has been bound to Egypt throughout history by close relations of a particular nature; the two countries also share common strategic interests; consequently relations between the two countries cannot be affected by any circumstances or contingencies.

For many years, Egypt has made significant contributions to the welfare of the Sudanese people, playing pioneer roles in the fields of education and raising the efficiency of the Sudanese armed forces. Egypt also provided support to the successive government regimes in Khartoum and opened its doors to more than three million Sudanese who are treated like brothers in this country.

And yet, the Sudanese regime has adopted anti-Egyptian policies and positions, which led to unprecedented tension in relations. This happened not only with Egypt but also with other neighbouring states, which led to Sudan's political isolation.

At the core of the present dispute between the two countries is the control exercised by the Islamic National Front and its leader Hasan al-Turabi over the Khartoum regime. This front has embraced an extremist ideology and seeks to destabilise the governments of several states of the region, particularly Egypt. It also harbours terrorists who are provided with training in camps located on Sudanese soil — a matter which constitutes a threat to Egyptian, Arab and African security.

We all know that any threat to the Nile waters not only constitutes a threat to national security, but is also a threat to Egypt's very survival because the Nile is our lifeline.

We affirm that Egypt is intent on maintaining the eternal bonds between the two peoples. But any provocative measures taken by the Sudanese regime against Egypt's national interests may push the situation into an even more dangerous phase. There are red lines, well-known to the Sudanese side. If it attempts to cross these lines, particularly concerning the issues of water and land, it will have to bear the consequences.

As for the services provided by the armed forces to the inhabitants of the triangle, they included the construction of three water desalination plants at Bernice, Abu Ramad and south of Hala'ib, and the construction of an 82-km-long road in the Hala'ib- Shalatyn region. A school was built at Abu Ramad and two other schools and 250 housing units are under construction in the region. A military hospital and two medical centres were also established.

[Nassar] The border guards are in charge of protecting our borders and coastlines. What efforts are being made to upgrade these forces?

[Tantawi] Securing our borders and coastlines is one of the principal functions of the armed forces and this responsibility is discharged with great efficiency by the border guards. They have been provided with radars to detect any hostile movement from a distance, light aircraft for reconnaissance and chase purposes, light vehicles and gunboats to protect the coastlines.

[Nassar] The Israeli disclosures about the heroism of Sayyid Zakariya, "the lion of Sinai", have raised the question of whether we will allow Israel to write our military history. When will the Defence Ministry release the documents that contain the truth?

[Tantawi] Even before the Israeli disclosures were made, the armed forces had set up a number of committees, which included specialists in the writing of our military history. These committees were commissioned to make field tours of battle sites and meet with large numbers of officers and soldiers who took part in the wars.

We will publish the results of these committees' work in the near future so that the documentation of the military history of that period will be on a par with the sacrifices and heroism displayed by the sons of Egypt in defence of their country.

[Nassar] What sort of protection is provided to the Egyptian peace-keepers in Bosnia and is Egypt ready to take part in international peace-keeping efforts?

[Tantawi] It should be pointed out that the Egyptian participation in peace-keeping in Bosnia stems from its belief in the importance of stability in this part of the world and also the importance of cooperation between the states of the Mediterranean; it is also part of the Egyptian commitment to upholding international legality.

The Egyptian force is active under the umbrella of the United Nations, which provides the necessary protection. The Egyptian force carries out the tasks which are assigned to it by the United Nations, after they are discussed and approved by the Egyptian command to ensure the security and safety of our men.

To affirm the Egyptian commitment to world peace and security, Egypt is always prepared to respond to any invitation from the United Nations to participate in any peace-keeping force in any region, provided the United Nations guarantees the security of these forces.

[Nassar] An international conference was held recently in Geneva on landmines and plans for their removal. What are the efforts that are being made by the armed forces for the removal of mines in Egypt?

[Tantawi] The conference was held between 5-7 July, with Egyptian participation, to discuss international contributions for the removal of mines from affected countries. The Egyptian delegation explained the problem of the mines planted in the Western Desert during World

War II, pointing out that they total 22.7 million mines, thus correcting the United Nations' record on this problem.

Several countries agreed to contribute $21 million to a special fund for the removal of mines. Egypt will only contribute personnel.

The Egyptian armed forces have made major efforts to clear the Western and Sinai deserts of mines and other items left behind after the war. Between 1981 and 1991, the armed forces cleared an area of 775 square kilometres, both in the Western and Sinai deserts, removing about 11 million mines. In mid-1991 the armed forces began enforcing a 15-year plan for clearing 2,095 square kilometres at a cost of LE170 million and $140 million.

An area of 150 square kilometres has been cleared so far. Efforts are continuing to acquire modern detection equipment from developed countries.

UAE Reportedly Seeking Coordination on Iraq

JN1910212895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2030 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 19 Oct (INA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak received a written message from Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], during a meeting he had with a personal envoy of Shaykh Zayid in Cairo this evening.

Egyptian sources told the correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY in Cairo that the message concerns the statements Shaykh Zayid made on revoking the Iraq sanctions and effecting an inter-Arab reconciliation.

The sources added that the UAE seeks to coordinate with Egypt over the recent statements Shaykh Zayid made on Iraq and inter-Arab reconciliation.

Paper Praises UAE President's Stance

NC2010083395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0602 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper has praised the call by United Arab Emirates [UAE] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to lift the siege of Iraq and his demand that Kuwait open a new chapter of relations with the Arab countries that supported Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

In today's commentary, the newspaper described Shaykh Zayid's call as a courageous initiative at a crucial time for Iraq and the whole Gulf region.

The newspaper concentrated on Shaykh Zayid's call for establishing a basic principle over which no two parties can differ; this is the need to distinguish between the Iraqi people, who are suffering immensely, and their leadership, which led them to this hell of suffering.

The paper added that the principles for Shaykh Zayid's call are humanitarian and pan-Arab because their objective is to rescue 18 million Muslim Arabs from the dangers of annihilation under the hardship of the siege. The objective is also to speed up realizing the dream of Arab reconciliation, not only based on the principle of forgetting the past, but also on the conviction that what happened must not be repeated.

The newspaper stated that Shaykh Zayid's call clearly shows the need for the Arab world to comprehend the dangers of the future scenarios that are being plotted outside the Arab world. These are scenarios that do not serve Arab interests either currently or for the future.

The paper said that what Shaykh Zayid wanted to say was that the internal and external situation in Iraq is much more complicated than we imagine. Also, allowing events to develop the way they did during the Gulf war will not lead to positive results for Iraq—land and people—or the Arab countries. The paper added that the situation now requires true Arab action to restore Arab solidarity and reconciliation.

Official on Ministry's 'Neutrality' in Elections

NC1910150595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1350 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 19 Oct (MENA)—Major General Muhammad al-Tahir Hijab, first assistant interior minister for administrative affairs, has reiterated that the security agencies will remain committed to total neutrality at the People's Assembly elections slated for 29 November. He said that there are strict instructions to keep totally neutral and refrain from interference in the electoral proceedings.

Major General Hijab added at a news conference in the Ministry of Interior this afternoon that the judicial authority is in charge of supervising the electoral process from the beginning until results are announced in the various constituencies. He pointed out that the Interior Ministry's role is limited to securing candidates, voters, and citizens in addition to guarding the ballot boxes during transportation from the branches to the central constituencies.

He added that only the interior minister's announcement of the final outcome of the elections, after collecting ballots from the various polling stations and sending them to the operations room at the Interior Ministry's elections department, will "reveal the results." [passage omitted]

Libya

Islamic Group Seeks Overthrow of al-Qadhdhafi

NC1910184495 London MBC Television in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A previously unknown group calling itself the Fighting Islamic Group [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah al-Muqatilah] has claimed responsibility for disturbances that occurred in Libya earlier this year.

In its first statement, sent to an international news agency in Cairo, the group said that it has shifted from a secret to public war to overthrow Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and enforce [Islamic] shari'ah in Libya.

Issues Statement on Use of Force

MM2010103295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 95 pp 1, 6

[Unattributed report: "Libya: An Islamic Group Announces It Is To Operate Openly"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — AL-HAYAH yesterday received a statement marked No. 1 on "the announcement of the establishment of the Militant Islamic Group in Libya" [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah al-Muqatilah fi libya]. The statement, which attacked Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime, said that "the time has come for the Militant Islamic Group in Libya to shift from secret to public action in view of the sensitive phase through which jihad action in Libya is passing."

Western diplomatic sources have told AL-HAYAH that the Militant Islamic Group in Libya's first statement comes while disturbances are continuing in Banghazi between security forces and extremists, after it has emerged that these are more spread and organized than it was first thought. The sources pointed out that last month's clashes with fundamentalist groups led to the discovery of documents in a hideout belonging to these groups. The documents proved that Libyan extremists have Sudanese and Algerian extensions, in addition to what the authorities term numerous "dens." When they stormed these dens, the authorities discovered how fierce Libyan Islamists were, as they used their arms immediately, putting up fierce resistance against security men.

The statement stressed the use of force to bring about change in Libya. In this context it said: "Removing the apostate regime and ridding the Muslim Libyan people of their suffering cannot be done without wounds, pain, and human and material sacrifices...the Militant Islamic Group appeals to the Muslim Libyan people to renew their repentance to Almighty God, follow His path, abide by His tenets, and dissociate themselves from that apostate regime which has abandoned the religion of Almighty God, enslaved the people, usurped their rights, and tried to destroy all their values and principles. The Militant Islamic Group also urges all Muslim peoples on whose territories a war has broken out between right and falsehood and between worshipers of God and the worshipers of Satan to take their part in this war alongside the mujahidin, not the tyrants. May we send sentiments of brotherhood, love, support, and loyalty to all jihad groups that have emerged to defend the Islamic religion and oppressed Muslims in every country in our Islamic world, restore the nation's glory and honor, and take revenge for it against those who humiliated it and sold its holy sites.

"We pledge to Almighty God to continue on the road of blessed jihad until oppression has collapsed and until Almighty God's religion has triumphed. Then the believers would rejoice at God's victory."

The Militant Islamic Group defined its general policy as follows:

"1. [It is] a Muslim group making its preparations to fight the enemies of Almighty God, first and foremost the atheists who are not ruling in accordance with God's teachings, in order to avoid sedition and uphold God's religion.

"2. Doctrine, concept, and line: The doctrine of the Sunnah, the forefathers, and the [Prophet's] companions, in addition to God's teachings.

"3. Objective and aim: To satisfy Almighty God and to work to uphold and firmly establish His religion on earth.

"4. The means: To follow Almighty God's order to fight for and promote his cause through a group that has an amir [leader] and is based on a pledge to obey and maintain the jihad.

"5. Working method:

"A. To prepare members comprehensively.
"B. To benefit from the principle of working secretly for the sake of interests of the Shari'ah.
"C. To spread awareness and the jihad spirit and to urge believers to fight.
"D. To show support and loyalty for all jihad groups everywhere.
"E. Not to rely on any atheist quarter and to rely — after Almighty God — on our own resources to finance the jihad march."

Sudan

Official Reports Influx of Rebel Repatriates

EA1910180195 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 18 Oct

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The general manager of the Supreme Council for Peace, Musa Sid Ahmad, said that Yei Province in Bahr al-Jabal State is witnessing a flow of large numbers of returnees from the outlawed movement and from camps of refugees in Uganda as a result of conflicts and splits between outlaw factions. He said that the returnees came back in bad condition. He also added that the council in its coordination with the state authorities prepared a programme for receiving them with services.

He said that an agreement was reached recently to amend the agenda of negotiations with the rebels so that negotiations could be based on real issues and to be a continuation of Abuja and Nairobi peace talks, pointing out the strife between the outlawed factions (?has turned) the conflict into a tribal one.

London Paper Says Nation Haven for 'Radicals'

MS1910110895 London THE GUARDIAN in English 19 Oct 95 p 16

[Report by Kathy Evans: "Sudan's Friends Make it Enemies"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The sign Outside the dilapidated villa reads: "The Aqsa Mosque Information Centre". Inside, young radical Muslims, in beards, short *galabiyas* and skullcaps, sit around a sparse library. This is the office of Hamas, Palestine's largest Islamic movement.

Hamas is just one of many Middle Eastern radical groups which have been welcomed in Sudan. Until last month, citizens of Arab states could enter without visas, and the rejects and rebels of the Middle East have all pitched up here: Saudi opposition politicians, Arab Afghan war veterans who cannot go home, and Islamic militants from almost every Arab country.

As Munir Sa'id, director of the Hamas office, explained: "Sudan is where you come when you've got nowhere else to go."

All have found a welcome from the most powerful man in Sudan, Hassan al-Turabi, and the labyrinth of "friendship" organisations he runs. Dr al-Turabi, educated in London and at the Sorbonne, has pretensions to being the Muslim world's leading Islamic ideologue. Friendships with other Islamic radicals have given him influence well beyond his poverty-stricken country.

Such hospitality has cost Sudan dear, for it is almost totally isolated. Of the nine states which border it, Sudan has bad relations with five. Libya, Ethiopia, Egypt, Eritrea and Uganda have all accused it of sponsoring opposition groups in their own countries. Two years ago, the United States placed Sudan on its list of states suspected of sponsoring terrorism which includes Iran, Syria, Libya and North Korea.

This summer Sudan faced its most serious charge yet of involvement in terrorism, with the attempted assassination of the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, during a visit to Addis Ababa. Ethiopia has demanded Sudan hand over three Egyptians and another named as Mohammed Siraj who, it claims rented the house where the would-be killers stayed. Ethiopia says the three Egyptians and Mr Siraj fled to Sudan after the attack. Sudan denies knowledge of any of them.

The accusations over the Mubarak incident have sparked an unprecedented debate within government ranks, Western diplomats say. The first sign came with the announcement last month that henceforth all Arab nationals must have a visa before entering Sudan. Another came with the firing of the former head of security, Nafi' al-Nafi' who happened to be in Addis Ababa at the time of the Mubarak incident. The security services were then completely overhauled.

There have also been indications that Sudan is seeking to repair its relationships with the Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, once its most important source of foreign investment and trade.

Foreign diplomats, however, believe speculation about change is premature. "They are still trying to talk out of two sides of their mouth," said one Western official in Khartoum. "Not surprisingly, no one believes them."

Economics, more than anything else, may push this debate even further. In the last few months, Sudan has found foreign investment cut to a trickle. Next month, it could be expelled from the International Monetary Fund over its failure to pay its $1.7 billion (1.1 billion pound) arrears.

Friends and funds are vital to a solution to Sudan's most pressing problem — the war in the south. Last month the latest mediator, the former US president Jimmy Carter, dropped out, angry with Khartoum and the rebel groups for not being serious about peace.

The baton has been handed to the Inter-Governmental Authority for Droughts and Desertification, which includes most of Sudan's neighbours. Of these, Khartoum is relying on Kenya — which remains friendly — to take the initiative.

GCC Ministers Discuss Judicial Cooperation Issues

*LD1810225495 Riyadh SPA in English
1940 GMT 18 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, Oct 17, SPA — GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] ministers of justice concluded here today their seventh meeting under the chairmanship of Bahraini Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs 'Abdallah Bin-Khalid Al Khalifah.

The final communique, read by Fahim al-Kasimi, the GCC secretary general, said the ministers had reviewed issues pertaining to judicial cooperation.

He noted that the topics discussed by the ministers included the agreement of the implementation of the rules, judicial summons, systems and regulations based on Islamic Shari'ah, the system of the judicial law, the law of the financial and civilian dealings as well as the system of the criminal law.

GCC Army Commanders To Discuss 'Early Warning Network'

MM2010090895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Oct 95 p 2

[Report by Hasin al-Bunyan: "Cooperation Council Army Commanders To Discuss New Defense System"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh — Commanders of the armies of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states will meet in Riyadh on Sunday to prepare the "defense policy and military cooperation file" which the GCC defense ministers will discuss at their meetings in Manama 23-24 November.

Informed sources in Riyadh have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the military commanders will work at their meetings over two days to crystallize the formula for a "joint file" to be referred to the ministers for discussion and endorsement in preparation for referring the final decisions to the 16 GCC summit scheduled to be held in the Sultanate of Oman in December.

The sources declined to reveal details of "military questions" to be discussed by the GCC army commanders. However, the sources pointed out that the discussions are aimed at reinforcing both individual and collective power and increasing the efficiency of the GCC armies in order to ensure that they have the armament and combat capability to guarantee a nonrepetition of the Iraqi aggression.

Other sources have confirmed that the GCC states have a serious tendency to openly discuss "the weakness of the geographical military wall." And that defense cooperation among the GCC states still has not reached the level of addressing the challenges and crises that could arise in the future.

The sources said that the GCC army commanders will — with firm instructions from the Defense Ministers — discuss the issue of drawing up a strategy for a new military system in accordance with unified views to prepare for the creation of an effective defense force in order to avert any future threats. Especially in view of the Iraqi regime's continuation in power, since the neighboring states continue to believe that this regime poses a threat to their security and stability in the region, and also because of the lack of trust in dealings between some of these states and Iran.

The sources revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the GCC army commanders will discuss in their Riyadh meeting the establishment of an integrated control and communications system, or so-called early- warning network, to link all borders of the GCC states through a joint operations room; this network would be a basic element contributing to effective and rapid movements when necessary.

The army commanders will also review ways of radically developing the "Peninsula Shield Force" and to increase the number of its troops from no more than 10,000 to 25,000.

The meeting will also discuss plans for the two military exercises that will be conducted in Kuwait next March and April: one involving joint coalition forces and the other the Peninsula Shield Force.

Major General Falih 'Abdallah al-Shatti, GCC assistant secretary general for military affairs, is currently touring the Gulf region to arrange and coordinate for the meeting in Riyadh of commanders and chiefs of staff of the GCC armies.

Bahrain

Government Warns Against 'Acts of Sabotage'

*NC2010121695 Paris AFP in English
0942 GMT 20 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, Oct 20 (AFP)—Bahrain's government issued a severe warning on Friday [20 October] against any repetition of what it described as "acts of sabotage and violence" which shook the archipelago from December 1994 to April.

"No state would tolerate such acts or be lenient towards the perpetrators," Crown Prince Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah told local newspapers.

"Those who responded to directions from foreign parties, using methods of sabotage and violence, had broken the law. They are traitors who must face the due process of the law," he added, without naming the parties involved.

"The people of Bahrain would not allow such acts to take place," he said, paying tribute to the emir, Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, for his "wisdom" in freeing some of those arrested during the unrest.

The authorities have freed nearly 250 people since August, after an agreement with the opposition providing for a phased release of the detainees held without trial in exchange for normalisation.

The riots started after the arrest of a Shiite Moslem cleric, Shaykh 'Ali Salman, who was deported to London in January. At least twelve people were killed in the unrest.

In September, Amnesty International said 4,000 people were arrested during the violence, nearly 150 of whom were sentenced to jail terms ranging from six months to life imprisonment. One person, convicted of murder, was sentenced to death, it added.

Kuwait

Parliament Speaker on Arab Reconciliation, Iraq

NC1910115795 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with National Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun, in Kuwait, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Jundi] Mr. al-Sa'dun, what is Kuwait's view on the initiative announced by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al-Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], to seek Arab reconciliation and forget the past?

[Al-Sa'dun] Kuwait has never adopted a rejectionist attitude toward Arab solidarity or reconciliation. Everyone in Kuwait recognizes Shaykh Zayid's strong opposition to the occupation of Kuwait, which was evident from the very first day. It was his personal position and also the position of the UAE and its people. Perhaps it has become clear that Kuwait has restored its ties with many countries that initially supported the Iraqi regime's position, especially after those countries showed understanding of Kuwait's position and called on the Iraqi regime to comply with UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jundi] Mr. al-Sa'dun, we are not speaking about full restoration of diplomatic ties between you and the Iraqi regime. We are talking about an overall Arab reconciliation. Keeping in mind that Kuwait suffered a great injury when Iraq invaded it, it still has a specific role in bringing about an Arab reconciliation, notably a reconciliation with Iraq. Do you think such a reconciliation can take place while Saddam Husayn's regime is still in power or are you trying to have a reconciliation on specific conditions?

[Al-Sa'dun] Everyone is talking about the Iraqi people's hardships. Don't the Kuwaiti people deserve recognition of their own hardships? Don't you think that the Iraqi regime's continued detention of Kuwaiti POW's? [question unfinished as heard] The Iraqi regime cannot deny their existence. It is holding Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti POW's. How can we then speak of reconciliation between Kuwait and the Iraqi regime? I believe that the Kuwaiti people will not accept a reconciliation with the Iraqi regime. Nevertheless, this should not prevent the search for an overall Arab reconciliation regardless of the status of relations between any two countries. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Paper Calls Iraqi Referendum Regime's 'New Farce'

JN1910114795 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 15 Oct 95 p 7

[Editorial: "The Throes of Death"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Saddamist show, which begins in Baghdad today and which the Iraqi regime calls the "mother of referendums" after the "Mother of Battles" — which that regime waged against the international community during the second Gulf war in which it was defeated — can only be described as a new farce. The agents of the eroding ruling regime are trying, through this farce, to polish the gloomy face of the Iraqi regime after it fully lost its popularity and began to stagger and tremble while moving to hammer in the last nail of its coffin. The Iraqi regime has reached this point not only as a result of the international siege imposed on Baghdad, but also as a result of the rising wrath of the free Iraqi people, which is seen as a sign of the imminent fall of the regime.

This new farce, which was described by the Saddamist media as the celebration of the referendum, is a desperate attempt to absorb the escalating anger of the Iraqi people. The observer of the history of that regime, since its assumption of power by force in Iraq, will easily find out that this farce, which raises a number of failing political slogans, is a method of its rude propaganda to hide that regime's faults, violations, and aimless acrobatic adventures on one hand and to mislead the afflicted Iraq people and distract their attention from the scandals and farces which resulted in starving, displacing, and humiliating its free sons on the other.

The alleged celebration, however, is the strangest referendum the likes of which never took place in history, and will never again occur. It is decided in favor of the unique leader even before it is conducted. The regime mobilized elementary school students — who, according to the Constitution, have no right to participate in the referendum — in Baghdad schoolyards to repeat loudly seven times: Yes, yes to the majestic leader. The chairman of the national federation declared openly that the votes of those students, who are not more than seven years old, will be added to the votes of the Iraqis to renew allegiance to the inspired leader and to support his stay in power. It goes without saying that the votes of the Iraqis, about which the chairman of the national federation spoke, are in favor of the leader, because the referendum was decided in advance in favor of the Saddam regime. And the referendum cards, which will be used by the Iraqis to chose their unique leader, are marked with yes even before being distributed to the Iraqi people.

What is strange is to see the defeated regime spending large amounts of money on this celebration while the Iraqi people are starving. The price of one small loaf of bread has reached 50 dinars, and the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar is increasing. What is even stranger on all popular levels is to see the Iraqi people abandoning the celebration because they are worried as a result of the high prices of the basic food commodities. The Iraqis are suffering from poverty and starvation, while the Saddamist leadership is celebrating the alleged referendum.

This is the beginning of the end of a reckless leadership which is today suffering the throes of death.

Press Discusses Regional, International Topics

LD1910141195 Riyadh SPA in English
1256 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Oct 19, SPA — Editorials of the Saudi daily newspapers discussed a number of regional and international topics and positive stands of the kingdom towards what is going on in the international arena.

Citing the section of the Islamic studies set up recently at the University of Moscow and named after Prince Naif Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, the minister of interior, the Jeddah-based "UKAZ" emphasized that the heir has reflected the keen interest of the kingdom to give a corrected understanding on Islamic faith and change the distorted picture caused by mistaken and irresponsible behavior of some people who pretented as Moslems.

The welcoming of the Federal Republic of Russia on the establish- ment of Prince Naif chair for Islamic studies at the University of Moscow, the biggest university in Russia, would certainly dedicate optimistic feelings on the future of the Islamic call in that part of the world, the paper said.

The same issue was tackled by the Riyadh-based, AL-JAZIRAH which highlighted the continuous efforts of the kingdom since its foundation until the era of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to undertake its great historical responsibility towards the message of Islam and for service of Moslems worldwide.

The paper enumerated the noble acts sponsored by the kingdom to close ranks of Moslems, dedicate solidarity and cooperation within a number of specialized Islamic and regional organizations along with its effective individual moral and material support for building mosques, Islamic schools and centres throughout the world.

Al-BILAD, of Jeddah, warned Israel from committing a big military adventure in south Lebanon to retaliate the recent guerrilla operations in southern Lebanon and said such military action would certainly jeopardise the Middle East peace process and will greatly damage efforts underway to realise peace and stability in the entire region. The paper termed the guerrila operations of the southern Lebanon resistance forces as a legitimate right to fight the Israeli occupation troops.

AL-YAWM, published in Dammam, commented on the participation of the kingdom in the celebrations to be held next week to mark the golden jubilee of the United Nations.

The paper spotlighted the positive and constructive efforts made by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to reinforce various political, economic and social organizations affiliated to the United Nations besides the great responsibilities undertaken by the kingdom towards international peace and security issues as a founding country of the United Nations.

For its part, AL-NADWAH of Mecca expressed dismay and resentment over the Republican-led campaign in the U.S. Congress to move the American Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and said such trend would contradict with the international laws and norms and the the Republicans of the Congress should realise, before it too late, the unrepairable damage that they could cause to the American policy and to the Middle East peace process if they continued to pursue such irrational idea.

CDLR Monitor Issues Bulletin No. 65

MS1010130195 London CDLR Monitor in English 15 Sep 95

[Bulletin No. 65 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR) — received via Internet 10 October]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] **The First Anniversary of the Burayda Intifada**

On Wednesday, one complete year will have passed since the Burayda Intifada. A year of events and changes which have altered the face of the Arab peninsula. The events which have taken place over the past year were more than those which occurred over the past half century. Thousands of bodies have been incarcerated in Al Sa'ud's prisons but millions of minds have been freed from Al Sa'ud's slavery and have discovered their deceit. One year was enough to totally demolish Al Sa'ud's claimed legitimacy, and to destroy the aura of holiness they have given themselves. There is now nothing left for the regime except the use of terror via the security and intelligence services.

The people's fear of the regime of Al Sa'ud has always been present, but in the past this fear was mixed with some respect for their authority, and certain classes of society appreciated them. This was mainly because the people, regardless of the tyranny and injustice of the regime, still saw them as the icons that kept the country together. This past year, however, has seen the respect and appreciation vanish, because in that year the regime has been totally exposed. The regime was prepared to sacrifice the Nation in order to remain as the ultimate, unquestionable power that would never allow any participation or criticism under any circumstances.

The case was not Al Sa'ud's fears for their monarchy, because the monarchy was not in danger, the problem was the "Pharaonic Phenomena" of our rulers feeling that they are the owners of the land and everything on it.

During the year, the Nation realised that those "Pharaohs" (Al Sa'ud) have no conscience about their actions against the people. All they care about is to remain the "gods" of the people, and that which they see as right, is right. There is no other guidance except theirs. Al Sa'ud would not allow the body or mind of any citizen to escape from their personal authority.

How did Al Sa'ud make up their minds to confront the people and to continue their project of oppression and terrorism, when they see that the challenge of the Committee and the reputations of the imprisoned scholars are increasing every day? Have Al Sa'ud actually calculated the risks of their present actions, the reality of the opposition and the reality of the state? Have they thought about the political reality and its challenges, as well as the troubled economic situation? Have they studied their strengths and weaknesses, and the actuality of their position? Have they considered the social changes and the awakening of the people? Haven't Al Sa'ud realised that with the technology available today and world-wide communication revolution, there are no secrets that can be hidden forever?

Their actions do not suggest that Al Sa'ud have given even the slightest thought to the above questions. It is evident that not one of them can see past the end of his nose and consequently their decisions are purely reactions to events, all coming from their feelings of dominance and mastery. Their decisions and instructions have increased the circle of animosity amongst all classes and levels of society. This animosity and confrontation coming from the regime, which is projected towards the Committee in London, is understandable because the Committee represents a free, clear, frank voice in opposition to the regime.

However, when the regime assaults the houses of scholars of the calibre of Shaykhs Safar and Salman, and many others, regardless of their names, status, tribal affiliations etc, then the regime brings upon itself the hatred of the people and the society as a whole.

In the past, the regime has been more cautious, but over the last year Al Sa'ud have been targeting people on suspicion, and even people who simply hesitated to praise the regime have found themselves to be Al Sa'ud's enemies. Therefore, people who were not actually arrested, found themselves sacked or transferred in their jobs. Scores of scholars, intellectuals and professors suffered under Al Sa'ud's actions in this area. Recently a number of judges also found themselves sacked, which in essence increases the number of enemies for the regime, and encourages those previously hesitant, to take a stand with the opposition. The regime did not hesitate to spill blood in order to fulfil their threats.

During the year, the regime believed that they would extract the Islamic activity or even any other activity that opposes tyranny and injustice from the roots. Al Sa'ud felt that by the use of arrests, torture, spying and bribing, they would succeed in isolating the Nation from its leaders, scholars and reformers, and therefore isolate the Nation from the Committee.

Al Sa'ud hoped that the Nation had been well trained and disciplined, and that the Committee and the Reform movement were only supported by a very limited number of people who could be easily destroyed and thus the problem dealt with.

Al Sa'ud cannot believe that the whole reform movement, distribution, publications, faxes, copying, word of mouth etc. were all actually the initiative of the people, and that what is lying in wait in the future will be even greater.

The regime cannot comprehend events when they see that the results are actually contrary to their plans. For example, despite the thousands that have been arrested, and the transformation of the country into a vast prison for over a year now, the people are still exchanging news of the Committee and its publication. Some citizens even issue their own bulletins and communiques within the country, and have distributed their publications to great effect. Despite all the attempts of the Government to follow whoever communicates with the Committee, the Nation is stronger than ever. The news of the country and its society comes to and from the Committee with great intensity.

There is one more clarification to be made to those who are impatient for victory, and that is that time is on their side and in their favour. They should not underestimate the important gains of the previous year, because the changing of the Nation's convictions is not something to be taken lightly. It is very important to prepare the Nation ideologically, and to move the society in the right direction for change. Something such as this cannot be achieved without properly convincing arguments that will change people to the side of the reform movement.

One year in the Nation's time is not long, but the previous year is equivalent, in our opinion, to around 20 years. We feel that change is not far off, and the present waits for a huge initiative to awaken the sleeping volcano within the Nation.

News — The Turn of the Judges

Al Sa'ud have widened their campaign of sackings and transfers of preachers and university professors to include a number of judges who are suspected of sympathising with the reform movement. According to the information we have received, Shaykh and Judge Sa'ud Al Shuraym was sacked from his position. Orders were also issued to transfer Shaykh Sulayman Ibn-Muhammed al-Muhanna, the deputy of the head of Mecca Court, to al-Ta'if, and Shaykh al- 'Umayjan from al-Quway'iyah to Sudayr. We have also learned that Shaykh and Dr. Sa'ad Ibn-Abdullah Ibn-Humayd was sacked from his teaching post in Al Imam University.

Confirmation

In the previous bulletin, we mentioned that the authorities had forged a letter in the name of a number of reputable Shaykhs, who have condemned, in the strongest terms, this abhorrent crime committed by the authority. Amongst those Shaykhs who declared their position in a very clear manner with regard to the forgery are Shaykh Hamud al-'Uqlah, Shaykh Sulayman al-Buti, Shaykh 'Abdullah al-Qar'awi and others.

The Lambs of the Prince's Cronies

The prince of al-Asir region, Khalid al-Faysal, received a sarcastic letter which stated, "We appeal to you to make us equal to your cronies' sheep in the Tihama area". The letter described how the sheep belonging to the Prince's henchmen enjoyed the comforts of electricity in that area, whilst in certain areas of Tihama the people still consider electricity to be a "miracle" due to the complete lack of this utility!

Warning from the Dignitaries of al-Jowf

We have been requested by dignitaries and important citizens of al-Jowf to confirm that which was published in al-Jowf bulletin. We repeat the warning to people about donating money to the al-Birr Organisation, because it has been proved that the money of the organisation is spent on the local government's civil servants. We appeal to the public to boycott those government-run charity organisations throughout the Kingdom, as they disperse the donations in a decidedly "dodgy" manner!

Al-'Askar the Courageous Henchman

3It would seem that 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-'Askar, a teacher in al-Imam University and an Imam of Al Khalidiyah mosque, is the only 'intelligence' Shaykh 'courageous' enough to slander the reformers publicly from the pulpit of the mosque, and on the pages of newspapers. Al-'Askar was the only one who called for the beheading of Shaykhs Salman and Safar, and continues his open slander. Until recently, he gave a speech to justify the government's murder of al-'Hudhayf, in which he explained the legality of al-'Hudhayf's beheading according to the Islam of Al Sa'ud. Al-'Askar considered this murder to be a good deed and an act of holy justice. He then raged an attack on human rights organisations who criticised the murder, and called such organisations "infidel, atheist fronts". Al-'Askar conveniently forgot that his masters are proud of their total commitment to international law and organisations. Therefore, we would advise the poor "officer Shaykh" not to get too carried away with his statements.

Why the Councils Minister was Left Out

Information has been leaked to the Committee regarding the reason behind omitting Dr. Muhammad al-Shaykh from his previous post as Council Minister after the recent reshuffle. It would appear that the reason for this was due to his strong stand against Sultan's confiscation of huge areas of land in Riyadh, Jeddah and Mecca, as well as against Nayif's confiscation of another huge area of land in Rabegh. Another reason behind the Minister's leaving was his strong personality and good performance in the Council's ministry.

The Prince's Farm

After the authorisation for lighting up the road between the al-Bukayriyah and al-Ra's areas, and after designating the necessary budget for the project, Sultan gave his instructions to transfer the project to his farm near al-Qasim airport to provide his farm with light. Sultan's farm would appear to be considered more deserving of such a service!

Spies In Primary Schools

With a direct personal order from Nayif, an intelligence officer, 'Abdullah Zaffar al-Qarni, was appointed as a teacher in al-Hudaybiyah Primary School in Riyadh, in order for him to monitor the children of 'Abdullah al-Hudhayf, who study in that school. The education minister, officials in the Ministry of Education, and the school, were astonished when they were all by-passed and al-Qarni was appointed at the request of Nayif.

Top Secret

The Islamic Affairs Minister, Dr. 'Abdullah al-Turki, issued an urgent, top secret letter, which states, "All area administrations must immediately begin to remove around 50 percent of foreign Imams over the next three months, and to sack the remaining 50 percent in the following three months. The managers of the branches must present lists of the names of the sacked Imams to the ministry each month." The problem is that most of those targeted with sacking have lived most of their lives in the Kingdom and gained their qualifications there.

An Appeal

On behalf of its scholars, intellectuals and leaders of reform, we appeal to the Nation to participate in the revival of the anniversary of Burayda's Intifada, republishing the material published during the days of the Intifada.

Announcements

1) The third issue of Al-Shar'iyah magazine is now available. The same issue has been designed to suit faxing. It is also available by electronic transfer.

2) We appeal to the Brothers who have lectures on cassettes, which are in good condition, as well as poetry and other media material, to contact us.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid's Move Toward 'Reconciliation' Welcomed

MM1910130295 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 Oct 95 p 1

[Article by 'Abd-al-Bari 'Atwan: "Countdown to Reconciliation Has Begun"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan to call very openly and directly for reconciliation with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the immediate lifting of the blockade, and the transcending of the bitterness caused by the Gulf war, heralds a buildup of the Arab trend aiming to stop the current deterioration, restore unity to Arab ranks, and reactivate joint Arab work that was frozen since the second Gulf war.

Shaykh Zayid's call reflects genuine human and Arab compassion and is a message aimed primarily at the Kuwaiti Government, which is still singing out of tune and refusing the advice of those who fought by its side and shouldered the burdens of its arrogance and conceit — a government which continuously works to hamper Arab interests and spends billions of the Kuwaiti people's money to starve 20 million Iraqi Arabs and divide their country along factional and racial lines into petty states.

Kuwait, whose people did not endure a tenth of the Iraqi's suffering caused by the blockade, wants the Gulf states to support it in taking revenge on the Iraqi Government and people, and all the other Arab peoples, and refuses all discreet apologies, insisting on taking its pound of Iraqi flesh, which would still not satisfy it.

Shaykh Zayid, by making this heartfelt appeal, wants perhaps to respond to the warnings of Kuwaiti heir apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, issued during a press conference held for no reason a week ago and in which he talked about an alleged Iraqi threat not only to Kuwait but also to the other Gulf states, as if these states' leaders, whose patience has run out, are waiting for such warnings and expect to be shown the way to deliverance by the Kuwaiti Government, which is responsible for transforming the Gulf area into a permanent U.S. base, making all the Gulf peoples and their leaders hostage to its grudges, thwarting every Arab attempt at reconciliation by imposing impossible conditions, and forcing the Damascus declaration states to sponsor them, including a public "apology" to its high standing, for mistakes they did not make.

For Kuwait to interfere in the Yemeni secession war and spend hundreds of millions to finance arms deals for the secessionists is considered lawful and not a destructive interference in an Arab country's internal affairs. But if the poor Yemenis demonstrate against the United States, its forces, and its plans to destroy Iraq — this is an offense which deserves a boycott and calls for an apology. For the state of Kuwait to expel 400,000 Palestinians, and for its militias to rape Muslim women under the threat of arms, is a lawful and permissible action, but for the oppressed Palestinian people under the occupation to cheer when 39 missiles flying over their heads hit Israeli targets in Tel Aviv is a crime calling for more exemplary punishment for the Palestinians who were stranded and remained in Kuwait because they have nowhere else to go.

Shaykh Zayid showed courage when he did not hesitate for a second to direct blame at the Kuwaitis for their unjustified refusal to initiate a rapprochement with the Arab states that are attempting a reconciliation with them, and he put his finger on the cause of all the diseases plaguing the Arab body, accelerating the current collapse.

We hope that Shaykh Zayid's statement finds a positive echo in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, which during the recent period have supported Kuwaiti positions, or those related to them, calling for maintaining the blockade on Iraq; and we hope that we may see a unified Gulf position during the Muscat summit, which will pave the way for a comprehensive Arab reconciliation summit to cement the ranks and restore Iraq to its usual leading position.

The countdown to reconciliation has begun, and we would not be surprised if its momentum moves on with or without Kuwait, because the damage has affected everybody and there is no longer time for silence.

Ramadan Terms Saddam Victory 'Defiance' to U.S.

JN1910165895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan today received Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, secretary general of the Tunisian Progressive Socialist Assembly.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted that President Saddam Husayn's referendum win is a defiance to the United States and its agents and allies, who questioned the Iraqis' love for their idolized leader Saddam Husayn as well as their rallying behind his leadership and constant principled course.

Ramadan added that the large turnover of Iraqis at polling centers to say yes to Saddam Husayn at this point is tantamount to a rejection of the United States and its aggressive and colonialist policies, and also of all the policies aimed at undermining the Iraqis' dignity and sovereignty.

Ahmed Chebbi commended the true democratic traditions observed by Iraqis during the referendum on the post of president, asserting that this was a blow to all who profess to be advocates of democracy and human rights. He congratulated His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi people, and the Arab nation on this great victory.

The meeting was attended by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference.

Taha Yasin Ramadan also received an Algerian delegation of an Iraq support committee headed by al-Hasan al-Khayri Abu-Saddam [name as transliterated].

The vice president reiterated that the Arab masses support Iraq and share with it the jubilation over President Saddam Husayn's referendum win. He added that this confirms the vitality and strength of the Arab nation and augers well for its future and freedom.

Ramadan went on to say: The yes vote the Iraqis cast for Saddam Husayn is tantamount to an endorsement of the course Saddam Husayn has pursued since 1968. This vote is also a recognition of the gains and accomplishments he has scored for Iraqis and the Arab nation, and a commendation of his principled pan-Arab stands against the nation's enemies, be they imperialists or Zionists.

The fraternal Algerian delegation asserted that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn will remain the hope of the Arab nation, and that the Arab masses stand behind his courageous leadership. The delegation stressed that the maintenance of the embargo clamped on the Iraqi people amounts to an aggression against them and to an encroachment on humane values and international law.

Sudan's al-Bashir Congratulates Saddam

JN1910192095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report; from the "Evening Newspaper" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received a cable from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the Sudanese president, on his referendum win. He also received a similar cable of congratulations from the representatives of Jordanian political parties, popular organizations, and parliamentarians on his referendum win.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Moroccan Party Delegations

JN1910204395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Comrade Tariq 'Aziz, official in charge of the External Relations Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received several Moroccan party delegations currently visiting Iraq on the occasion of the general popular referendum.

They discussed the outcome of the general popular referendum and what it stands for in terms of love and allegiance and adherence by the Iraqi people to their leader President Saddam Husayn as well as their rejection of the stands of the imperialist powers, which are determined to keep the unfair Iraq sanctions in place.

The conferees stressed the need to maintain contacts, exchange visits, and promote ties in the interest of the national and pan-Arab endeavors.

The delegation consisted of [al-Furqani al-Habib], member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Union; [Ahmad Muhammad al-Kharras], member of the Political Bureau of the National Union of Popular Forces; [Muhammad al-Wali], member of the Political Bureau of the Morocco Grouping [jam'iyat multaqa al-maghrib]; ['Abd-al-'Aziz al-Shaykh], member of the Political Bureau of the National Democratic Party, and his wife; and [Muhammad Tullabi] and [Muhammad Rashid], members of the Political Bureau of the Organization of Democratic and Popular Action.

The meeting was attended by Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference.

Paper Views Possible Post-Embargo Oil Scenario

BR2010095495 Milan IL SOLE 24 ORE in Italian 19 Oct 95 p 3

[Report by Alberto Negri: "Everyone Wants Iraqi Oil"; all personal and placenames as published]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Baghdad — Some 10 percent of the world's reserves, a production level of 3.2 million barrels a day before the Gulf War: This is perhaps is really the only resource remaining intact in Saddam Husayn's hands. Another river of oil which will some day — if the United Nations and the United States so decide — flow again from Shatt al-Arab into the world markets. While for the past three days the guns of Baghdad have been firing salutes to celebrate the president's landslide election victory, the diplomacy of business, of huge amounts of dollars, has been quietly busy.

"It is everywhere, and extraction costs are low: That is why everyone wants Iraqi oil. Whoever gets there first will enjoy the most favorable conditions." There is an air of excitement at the Iraqi Oil Ministry, with officials busy hosting the latest large Russian delegation. When the embargo is lifted — but when will that be? — they will have a horde of oil contractors calling at their door, competing to secure a concession. "But the major powers have already come forward," one Canadian said, "and have secured prospecting rights in the 'giants,' the major oil fields, whereas we small and medium companies will gather the crumbs from the table."

The race for Iraq's black gold began a while ago, as did that for reconstruction contracts. Already a few months ago former Minister Safa Hadi Javad confirmed that, despite the sanctions, a number of foreign firms had resumed working in Iraq. His place has now been taken by General Amir — a tough man and a tireless worker, who until this summer was deputy to Kamal Hasan, head of industry and military projects, who fled to Jordan in August.

"All the important people in this field are here now," according to AGIP's [Italian National Oil Company] Baghdad chief, Giuseppe Appolloni, "and we must not be under any illusions: There is strong competition, and when the market really does open up, the Iraqis will show themselves to be inexhaustible negotiators." AGIP, which has set its sights on the oil wells of Nasiriya, Halfaya, and Dujaila, is meanwhile reappraising its position and stepping up its good relations with Saddam's representatives. The Italian Oil Company is about to make a humanitarian gesture in the form of a donation to Iraq of a $1 million worth of medical equipment and medicines. [passage omitted]

Iraq currently produces 750,000 barrels a day, all of it consumed at home, apart from the 75,000 barrels that go to Jordan, which are paid for with humanitarian supplies (food and medical supplies.) However, Iraq's production capacity is much greater, an estimated 2 million barrels. "The work to repair the oil wells and refinery plants," the Iraqi oil minister said, "is going ahead. How much have we spent? It is difficult to say; we still had machinery and spare parts in store."

But now the Iraqis need new technologies. Some $30 billion in investments are needed over eight years in order to exploit the oil deposits in the South: Indeed, Iraq claims to have discovered 130 new oil wells. [passage omitted]

PUK's Talabani Meets UINC Officials in London

NC1810162095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], held a news conference at the premises of the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] in London two days ago. Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, head of the UINC executive council, attended the news conference.

Brother Jalal Talabani announced the objectives of his current visit to Britain, pointing to the meetings and contacts that he has had with the UINC members and the various Iraqi opposition factions with the aim of drawing up a plan to overthrow the dictatorial regime in Baghdad. Brother Talabani added that real peace will be established in Kurdistan soon. He noted that the return of peace to the Kurdish region is a big advantage for the Kurdish sons and a positive step for the two Kurdish parties. The news conference was attended by a number of correspondents representing major world radios and press.

In another development and at the invitation of Dr. Ahmad al-Jalabi, brother Jalal Talabani held an expanded meeting with the UINC executive council members yesterday. Some 40 ranking Iraqi opposition figures attended the meeting. The conferees discussed Iraq's affairs. Brother Talabani shed light on events in Kurdistan, Iraq, and the region. He underlined the importance of working out ideal solutions to obstacles and problems facing the Iraqi opposition. He reiterated that the PUK is determined to restore peace to Kurdistan.

Continuing, brother Talabani stressed the need for stepping up the struggle against the dictatorial regime with the aim of establishing a democratic federal Iraq that would safeguard the rights of the Kurdish people. The conferees exchanged views on ideas submitted by brother Talabani and reached an agreement on a group of joint political issues.

PUK Forces Said Protecting PKK 'Terrorists'

JN2010072395 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1820 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our party's 10th branch has announced that military formations belonging to the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in the Rawanduz, (Balistan), and Warkah areas, are acting as guides to the PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] terrorists. The PUK opened military centers for the PKK in Rawanduz supervised by PUK military experts.

It is worth mentioning that in al-Sulaymaniyah, especially in Qarah Dagh area, the PUK designated one of its units to protect the PKK positions. The PKK is attacking people in the area under PUK protection. For their part, the PUK media publish news of PKK attacks on Iraqi Kurdistan.

Monarchist Movement Leader Explains Aims, Policies

JN1710171195 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 18 Oct 95 p 7

[Telephone interview with al-Sharif 'Ali Bin-al-Husayn, leader of the Constitutional Monarchy Movement in Iraq, by Jihad al-Rantisi in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Rantisi] How big is your popular base in Iraq?

[Bin-al-Husayn] Our contacts began with the start of the Constitutional Monarchy Movement in Iraq. Several segments of Iraqi society responded to the call for restoring the monarchy in Iraq, particularly the Armed Forces as well as Arab, Kurdish, and Turkmen tribes. All the Iraqi people and factions share love and respect for the royal family.

Our movement even penetrated the institutions of the regime and the party, reaching leading positions. We maintain contacts with them and they approve of our movement despite the regime's terrorism. The alleged referendum which will be held by the regime in a few days time is no more than a sign of the regime's frustration. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rantisi] What are the possibilities of initiating open relations between Amman and al-Sharif 'Ali and his Constitutional Monarchy Movement?

[Bin-al-Husayn] So far, we have had no relations with Amman, there are no indications that there will be any. This position was determined by the close relations between Amman and the key figures in the Iraqi regime as well as the present and future relations between Amman and Iraq. Our position stems from our eagerness to serve the interests of our people and homeland. We believe that the relationship between Amman and Saddam remains the same and has not changed one bit. We have accurate and regrettable information that corroborates this fact. What we see in the media is something well- known and does not change the unfortunate facts. Also, it does not provide observers with sufficient proof that there has been a real change in the Jordanian policy toward the long and bitter conflict between our steadfast people and the regime in Baghdad.

[Al-Rantisi] What is the nature of your relationship with the Iraqi opposition factions and what was the outcome of your contacts with them?

[Bin-al-Husayn] We are a political, national, and all-inclusive movement, not a pyramidical organization. We are not in conflict with the Iraqi parties and forces irrespective of their policies. As a mater of fact, we have strong relations and joint action with all the Iraqi opposition factions. We are not competing with them, rather we seek to support the Iraqi opposition factions which have offered several sacrifices in fighting the regime for over a quarter of a century. Our ultimate aim is to join forces and work for the sake of realizing our noble goal of toppling the regime and finding the alternative which would be accepted by our people through a free and unbiased referendum. Therefore, we have accepted the request of many of our independent brothers of high-ranking Iraqi figures who were known for their services and patriotism, to meet with a number of parties and factions. We have decided to hold a meeting on a larger scale to be attended by opposition members in and outside Britain under the slogan "In Defense of the Iraqi People" which will be held, God willing, in early November. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rantisi] What is Syria's stand toward your movement and the restoration of the monarchy? Is it supportive or neutral?

[Bin-al-Husayn] We respect and love Syria as a fraternal country, especially because of its generosity in playing host to a huge number of Iraqis and being a base for the activities of the Iraqi opposition. The Syrian brothers have treated all the Iraqi factions in a very hospitable way without any prejudices based on ideology, religion, or denomination. We have cordial relations and there is mutual respect between us and everyone in Syria on the popular, official, and party levels. We share common and noble aims with the Syrian brothers, most important of which is getting rid of the criminal regime of tyranny in Baghdad and restoring the free will of the Iraqi people so that they can choose their future system of government.

Saddam Allots Funds for al-Basrah Power Project

JN1210155995 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 29 Sep 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 21 million dinars in order to complete the current project of setting up an electricity network in the villages on the banks of al'Izz River in al-Basrah Governorate. The president has previously ordered the allocation of 30 million dinars for this project.

Al-Basrah Governor Latif Mahal Humud has told Iraqi News Agency correspondent that the president's new generous offer has come to meet the needs of completing this project which, he said, is being implemented by the Electricity Department in the governorate.

Revolution Command Council Issues Various Decrees

On Compensation for Loss, Damage

JN1210212695 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 95 p 4

[RCC Decree No. 97 of 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council [RCC]

Decree No. 97 dated 24 Rabi al-Awwal 1416 hegira, corresponding to 19 September 1995.

Decree

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: Whoever causes financial loss to the state or damage to its property, and whose fault has been established through a court decision, shall be liable to paying a compensation, which shall be calculated on the basis of the value of the loss or damage on the date the decision is issued.

Second: The provisions of Clause "First" of this decree also apply to the cases on which a court decision has not yet been issued.

Third: This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette, and until further notice.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

On Selling State Property to Medal Holders

JN1210204095 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Sep 95 p 4

[RCC Decree No. 100 of 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council [RCC]

Decree No. 100 dated 25 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 hegira, corresponding to 20 September 1995.

Decree

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: The sale of government and socialist sector property covered under the provisions of this decree shall be offered to the following categories of persons, their spouses, or minor children:

1. Holders of Medals of the Revolution, al-Rafidayn, al- Qadisiyah, and Mother of Battles, according to their grades.
2. Heroes of al-Qadisiyah and Mother of Battles.
3. Holders of al-Qadisiyah Sword and Mother of Battles Sword.
4. Medal holders who are friends of President Saddam Husayn.

Second: The provisions of this decree shall apply to the following types of government and socialist sector property:

1. A. Houses, apartments, housing plots, and commercial and industrial estates.
B. Lands which are divided into housing plots for sale by public auction.
C. Movable property.
2. Establishments, companies, and factories which are to be turned into shareholding companies for the mixed or private sectors.

Third: The procedure of selling the property stipulated in Clause "Second" of this decree shall be as follows:

1. Houses, apartments, housing plots, commercial and industrial estates, and movable property shall be sold according to the provisions of the Law on the Sale and Lease of State Property No. 32 of 1986. The sale shall be announced the first time for the categories stipulated in Clause "First" of this decree. If nobody shows up, the sale shall be announced the second time to include all

medal holders, including those who are not classified as friends of President Saddam Husayn. If nobody shows up, the sale shall be announced according to existing laws for all citizens.

2. Establishments, companies, and factories which are to be turned into shareholding companies for the mixed or private sectors:

A. The value of their assets shall be assessed according to current prices, while taking their rights and obligations into account. The assessed value shall be regarded as the shareholding company's capital, which shall be divided into shares of one dinar each.

B. After deducting the socialist sector's subscription in the capital of the mixed shareholding company, the shares of the mixed or private sector shareholding company shall then be offered for sale strictly to the categories stipulated in Clause "First" of this decree for a period of 60 days as of the date of company's registration. This shall be made in an announcement to be placed by the ministry or the department which owns the establishment, company, or factory in two papers at least and also in the special bulletin which is published by the Companies Registrar.

C. If, at the end of the period specified in Paragraph B above, the company's shares are over-subscribed, the shares shall be divided equally among the shareholders. However, if the subscription is less than the number of shares on sale, the remainder shall be offered to all citizens according to the provisions of Company Law No. 36 of 1983.

D. It is impermissible to hold more shares under the provisions of this decree than the number specified in the company law.

Fourth: For the purposes of applying this law:

1. This law does not forfeit the right of the buyer, his spouse, or minor children to own another house, apartment, or housing plot. It also does not prevent the buyer after a period of time from disposing of the property which he owned under the provisions of this law.

2. The 1977 census or any census before that shall be used as a basis for owning real estate within the town planning areas of the City of Baghdad and the districts and subdistricts of the Baghdad Governorate.

Fifth: With the exception of the shares of the mixed or private sector companies sold under the provisions of this decree, the following percentages shall be deducted from the prices of the immovable property sold to the categories covered under the provisions of this law, if the buyer, his spouse, or minor children do now own another house, apartment, or housing plot. They shall benefit from these deductions once only:

1. Thirty percent for the categories mentioned in Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of Clause "First" of this decree and those holding 10 Orders of Courage or more.
2. Twenty percent for holders of 9 to 6 orders.
3. Ten percent for holders of 5 to 3 orders.
4. Five percent to holders of less than 3 orders.

Sixth: Houses, apartments, and housing plots which are assigned for sale to government and socialist sector employees under the provisions of this law shall not be subject to existing laws and decrees.

Seventh: The price of the property which is sold under the provisions of this decree shall be paid cash. Property cannot be sold on a hire purchase basis.

Eighth: The minister of finance shall issue the necessary guidelines to facilitate the implementation of this decree.

Ninth: This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and shall remain in force for a period of three years.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

On Giving Planning Board Corporate Status

JN1210213495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Sep 95 p 4

[RCC Decree No. 102 of 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council [RCC]

Decree No. 102 dated 26 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 hegira, corresponding to 21 September 1995.

Decree

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees to issue Law No. 17 of 1995.

Law amending Planning Board Law No. 24 of 1994

Article 1: Article 2 of Planning Board No. 24 of 1994 is hereby canceled and replaced as follows: Article 2: First: The Planning Board shall enjoy a corporate status and it shall be independent financially and administratively. Second: The head of the Planning Board shall hold the rank of minister.

Article 2: The term "Bureau of the Head of the Board" shall replace the term "Bureau of the Director of the

Board" contained in Clause 11 of Article 3 and Clause "First" of Article 5 of the law.

Article 3: Article 7 of the law shall be canceled and replaced as follows: Article 7: The head of the Planning Board may issue any guidelines which are necessary to facilitate implementation of the provisions of this law.

Article 4: This law shall be implemented as of the date of its issuance.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

Justification: This law was enacted so the Planning Board will enjoy a corporate status and its head hold the rank of minister and exercise the authority to issue the guidelines which are necessary to facilitate implementation of the provisions of Planning Board Law No. 24 of 1994.

On Offering Rewards to Crime-Solvers

JN1210213795 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Sep 95 pp 1,5

[RCC Decree No. 103 of 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate

Republic of Iraq

Revolution Command Council

Decree No. 103 dated 26 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 hegira, corresponding to 21 September 1995.

Decree

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the constitution, the Revolution Command Council decrees as follows:

First: The competent minister, or head of a department which is not linked to a ministry shall grant the person, who informs about a crime of theft or embezzlement of state property and whose information leads to the capture of the culprit, a cash award amounting to 30 percent of the value of the stolen property. He shall also grant 15 percent to whoever informs about the identity of the culprit only, and 10 percent to whoever informs about the whereabouts of the stolen property. The award in all cases shall not be less than 25,000 dinars.

Second: The competent minister or head of a department which is not linked to a ministry shall grant the person who informs about a crime of forging official documents and whose information leads to the capture of the culprit, a cash award of 25,000 dinars which shall be paid within 20 days from the date of giving the information.

Third: 1. Fifty percent of the award stipulated in Clause "First" of this decree shall be paid within 20 days from the date of giving the information.

2. The remaining 50 percent shall be paid following the issuance of the court decision.

3. The party whose property has been stolen or embezzled shall file proof of the crime and an estimate of the value of the stolen or embezzled property according to current market prices at that time.

Fifth: 1. The court shall investigate the theft, embezzlement, or forgery crime within a period of not more than one month.

2. The court shall decide the case within a period of not more than two months from the date of filing the case.

Sixth: The Ministry of Finance shall disburse the award stipulated in this decree.

Seventh: Revolution Command Council Decree No. 822 of 25 October 1986 is hereby canceled.

Eighth: This decree shall be implemented as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and until further notice.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

Al-Muthanna District Committees Discuss Rice Harvest

JN1910093095 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Oct 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Muthanna — It has been agreed at a meeting of the district and subdistrict committees in al-Muthanna Governorate to divide the rice-growing regions in the administrative units into different sectors to facilitate the work of following up on the harvest and marketing campaign. It has also been agreed to open three rice receiving centers in al-Samawah, al-Rumaythah, and al-Majd and to make a survey of the agricultural tractors to be used in the harvest, which is scheduled to take place in early November. The meeting was attended by Governor Iyad Khalil Zaki and members of the local Ba'th Party branch leadership.

Committee Prepares for Rice Harvest

JN1910092895 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Oct 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Qadisiyah — The Higher Committee for the Rice Harvest and Marketing Campaign in al-Qadisiyah Governorate has held an expanded meeting during which it discussed the best means of achieving a successful rice harvest. It has been decided at the meeting to prepare 150 harvesters for the campaign, which will begin early in November, and to form several committees with the task of following up on the implementation of Revolution Command Council Decree No. 40 on selling grain to the government.

Al-Anbar Committee Discusses Plans for Rice Harvest

JN1910093395 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 6 Oct 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Anbar — A meeting of al-Anbar Governorate's Higher Committee for the Rice Harvest and Marketing Campaign attended by the heads of the harvest subcommittees in the districts of al-Ramadi and al-Fallujah and Governor 'Awwad Muhammad al-Bandar has decided to form follow-up committees. The conferees also emphasized the need to prepare harvesters and to sell the entire crop to government receiving centers.

Dhi Qar Farmers Discuss Preparations for Winter

JN1910093595 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Oct 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Dhi Qar — The Department of Agriculture in Dhi Qar Governorate, in cooperation with the local branch of the Federation of Cooperative Peasant Societies, has organized a meeting of peasants and farmers from al-Riafa'i District and Qal'at Sukkar, al-Nasr, and al-Fajr Subdistricts to discuss preparations for the coming winter agricultural season. The conferees affirmed the need to exploit all arable lands and ensure the supply of water, seeds, and fertilizers for peasants and farmers in order to expand on the cultivation of wheat and barley.

'Teams' Reconstruct Three Merchant Vessels

JN1910100895 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Oct 95 p 4

[Report from the AL-THAWRAH bureau in Basrah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Basrah — AL-THAWRAH has watched three boats belonging to the State Enterprise for Water Transport set sail on an experimental journey inside our territorial waters after undergoing reconstruction under the "Call of the Leader" campaign. The paper's Basrah correspondent, who watched the boats set sail with their crew at dawn yesterday, said the ships "Ibn Khaldun," "Al-Sahil Al-'Arabi," and "Al-Khansa'" fulfilled their mission successfully and returned to their base at the port of Umm Qasr in the afternoon.

The correspondent added: The experimental trip showed that the reconstruction job done by our Iraqi teams was excellent. The boats sustained damage in their engines and electronic and lighting systems, which are now functioning well. In the past, such technical work used to be monopolized by a few specialized international firms in foreign dockyards, and payment was in foreign currency. Our heroic teams restored the boats to service at a low cost in local currency and in record time, as well.

Kazim 'Amir Husayn, manager of the Basrah branch of the State Enterprise for Maritime Transport, told our correspondent that the tonnage of the boats is as follows: "Ibn Khaldun" 11,000 tonnes, "Al-Sahil Al-'Arabi" 8,000 tonnes, and "Al-Khansa'" 3,500 tonnes. The boats, he said, are ready to set sail to foreign ports once the blockade has been lifted.

It will be recalled that the enterprise had previously repaired the boats: "Al-Bay'ah," "Al-Fida'," and the maritime agency boat.

Lubrani: No Redeployment Planned for Lebanon

TA2010131595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Oct 95 p 2

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by correspondent No'omi Levitzky; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Levitzky] Uri Lubrani, last week's two lethal attacks in which nine Golani Brigade soldiers were killed again reminded the public of the fact that a real war is being waged in south Lebanon. Is the government reexamining the necessity of the security zone?

[Lubrani] Although we feel the pain and are aware of the distress resulting from our continued confrontations in south Lebanon, there are no plans to change Israel's deployment in south Lebanon, nor is the necessity of the security zone being reexamined. The two terror attacks and the reports about arguments between the ministers in last week's cabinet session created an impression that discussions are taking place about changing the current IDF [Israel Defense Forces] deployment in the security zone. This is simply out of the question.

I met the prime minister, and I can tell you unequivocally and with Yitzhaq Rabin's knowledge that the necessity of the security zone is not being reconsidered. The prime minister and I believe that given the current situation, the IDF should go on doing what it does. We must be as efficient as possible, and we need to seek new ways of dealing with Hizballah. The prime minister, however, has determined that a change in the IDF deployment in Lebanon will take place only when two conditions are met: Hizballah must be stripped of its military capability, and Israel must be given assurances that the residents of the security zone, including the SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers, will not suffer after the IDF leaves the area.

In the meantime, I must tell you that our exposure to the media and the pictures of crying soldiers are very bad for our steadfastness. I have no cure for that, but we should be aware of the fact that these pictures bring much joy to Tehran and Damascus, and when there are celebrations, people want more.

[Levitzky] Are we, therefore, to expect an intensification of Hizballah attacks?

[Lubrani] There are constant Hizballah activities and attacks. The joy they are experiencing and the congratulations they are now receiving will encourage them to do more. In Tehran, they are really happy. If you listen to broadcasts from Tehran, you will understand the connection between our affair with Hizballah and the Iranian desire to harm the peace process.

[Levitzky] I gather from what you are saying that only a political arrangement would solve the problem of south Lebanon. Is there a chance of attaining such an arrangement with Lebanon?

[Lubrani] We must realize that an arrangement between us and Lebanon is held hostage by Syrian interests. The Lebanese must enter immediate negotiations with us to solve the security problems between us, which, in fact, are the only problems between us. At the same time, it is absolutely clear that improving our situation in Lebanon will cost us on the Syrian track. Anyone who says today that we can attain a dialogue with Lebanon without Syrian consent does not know what he is talking about.

[Levitzky] And what are the Syrians doing?

[Lubrani] The Syrians are financing the Lebanese Government, want to extend the term of the Lebanese president, and are using this government to legitimize Hizballah activities against us. We saw how Lebanese National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul ran to the Hizballah secretary general and to Shaykh Fadlallah to congratulate them for the attacks.

[Levitzky] Just how deeply are the Syrians involved in Hizballah activity?

[Lubrani] The Syrians are using Hizballah and the military ability it developed as a bargaining chip in their negotiations with us. I do not believe that the Syrians are actually operating Hizballah, but they do not have to. Iran supplies funds, training, and inspiration. The weapons we find in Hizballah's possession come from Iran as well, not from Syria, but Tehran is delivering the weapons through Syria.

Hizballah centers are located in al-Biqa' and in the western neighborhoods of Beirut. Their offices, their nerve center is located in west Beirut, alongside the offices of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards who train Hizballah and provide them with armament.

When Syria reaches the conclusion — based on its own interests and for its own reasons — that it wishes to stop Hizballah activity in Lebanon, it will be creating a conflict between Iranian and Syrian interests. This will only happen as a result of political negotiations between us and Syria in the wake of which we would reach understandings.

[Levitzky] The negotiations with Syria, however, seem quite stuck, and south Lebanon has become a heavy burden.

[Lubrani] And what a burden it is! In south Lebanon, we are dealing with a very extreme fundamentalist Shiite element that will disappear only if it suits the Syrians. There is no doubt in my mind that when this becomes a Syrian interest, it will have the power and ability to stop all Hizballah military activity.

I believe that the Iranians are already aware of the fact that if Syria decides to stop Hizballah activity, they will no longer be able to operate the organization as a military force. Then, Hizballah activity will become political. Iran knows this, Syria knows this, and Hizballah knows this. Hizballah knows today that it should be prepared for this eventuality.

[Levitzky] At the same time, Syria is completing its takeover of Lebanon, controlling the government and sending Syrian workers to Lebanon.

[Lubrani] The Syrian takeover of the Lebanese Government is total. The Lebanese Government has absolutely no leeway on political-security matters. But, you are right. What is taking place in Lebanon goes beyond that. Last year, over a million Syrian laborers came to Lebanon; some even say 1.5 million. They work in Lebanon, occupy work places, and send their salaries back to Syria. The Syrian workers mainly take the place of the lower social strata, mainly the Shiites, which leaves them in a dire economic situation. If a Syrian worker makes some $100 a month — and this is a conservative estimate — at least $100 million get subtracted from the Lebanese market monthly. In the long run, this will have wide- ranging political and economic results.

Majority Wants Military To Remain in Lebanon

TA2010111595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Oct 95 p 1

[Public opinion poll "conducted by the Dahaf Institute under the management of Dr. Mina Tzemah"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Question: In the wake of the recent incidents in south Lebanon, should Israel react with a military operation?

Answers: Yes — 70 percent; no — 23 percent; no reply — 7 percent.

Question: Should Israel leave the security zone, or should it tighten its hold there?

Answers: Leave — 27 percent; tighten hold — 69 percent; no reply — 4 percent.

The poll was conducted 17 and 18 October on 502 interviewees who constitute a representative sample of the adult Israeli population. The statistical margin of error is 4 percent.

Ban on al-Rujub's Leaving Jericho Lifted

TA1910173195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander of the Central Command has lifted his order banning Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service, from leaving Jericho. Security sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the general lifted the restriction for several days and that the order remains in force.

Analyst Sees Hamas Losing Palestinian Support

TA1910164695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting of the Foreign Ministry's top echelon, David Afeq, head of the Center for Political Research, said he believes that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is losing support among the Palestinian public as the peace process advances. He also believes that the elections in the territories will demonstrate the real support for Hamas. He said, however, that it is still unclear whether a Hamas-PLO agreement guarantees that Hamas' military arm will cease terrorist attacks against Israel or whether it will secede from the organization.

'Arafat Said Using PA Funds for Jerusalem Land

TA1910195395 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Anchor 'Adi Talmor] Yasir 'Arafat tried to use funds donated to the Palestinian Authority [PA] to take over land in Jerusalem and to support Israeli Arab parties, according to PA secret internal documents. The liaison is Ahmad al-Tibi. The Palestinians claim the documents are forged. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen has the details:

[Begin recording] [Rosen] These are the offices of PECDAR [Palestinian Economic Committee on Development and Reconstruction] in Ramallah; in other words, the body responsible for the flow of funds to the PA. Here the decisions are made on how to divide up the millions of dollars donated by the donor states and the United States. These documents, which reached Likud Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin, on the face of it show that the PA has ambitious and much more embracing aims than just autonomy on the West Bank. In these four letters, PECDAR promises PA Finance Minister Muhammad al- Nashashibi to act on 'Arafat's instructions to purchase land and houses in East Jerusalem and to transfer funds to Israeli Arabs and Arab parties running in the Knesset elections. For example, one of the letters by al-Nashashibi to the PECDAR chairman says: Leader Abu-'Ammar — that is, 'Arafat — has decided that PA activity will be expanded to Israel and will focus on Palestinian Arabs inside Israel in the following areas — we will mention only two: to help the Arab parties that support the establishment of a Palestinian state and to aid local councils in financial trouble. PECDAR's reply: You are requested to tell brother leader Abu-'Ammar that the order has been implemented in full secrecy and to pay attention to the type of activity. Some $10 million is mentioned.

[Begin] These documents prove that we should no longer have any illusions. For the PLO, the Oslo agreement cannot end at the Green Line. The PLO sends its long arms into the State of Israel.

[Rosen] On Jerusalem, al-Nashashibi writes to PECDAR: Since the PA is dealing with the establishment of support systems for the foundations of the Palestinian state and since we do not want that activity to be appear in the PA's name, our leader and brother — that is, 'Arafat — decided to set up a land company based in Jerusalem to deal with the procurement of land in East Jerusalem. The company's manager will be Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi. PECDAR's response: We were in touch with Dr. al-Tibi and received from him information about the bank and how he prefers the initial funds for the plan — $15 million — to be transferred. The transfer of the funds is to be executed in a sophisticated way so that no side can find out how it is done. By the way, all the documents are headlined Top Secret and carry 'Arafat's unequivocal order to keep the activities secret. [end recording]

[Talmor] We now have 'Imanu'el Rosen in the studio. 'Imanu'el, the Palestinians firmly claim that the document is forged. So what is their credibility?

[Rosen] They also said six months ago that a copy of a similar document was forged. Al-Tibi hired investigator Eli Sade, who examined the documents and found faults. For example, the fact that the letters by al-Nashashibi — who is completely nonreligious — twice carried the expression bismallah [in the name of God]. Sade reached the conclusion that the documents are forged. Al-Nashashibi claimed that his signature on the documents is authentic, but that they contained falsifications. We showed Sade the new documents, which are originals. He has still not been able to give us his findings, but he has a feeling that these are also forged. We note that other elements believe that these are authentic documents.

[Talmor] If it transpires that the documents were written by the PA, what is the significance?

[Rosen] Whether they are authentic or not — or something in between — Israeli defense sources and others have been saying for a long time that these are the PA's chief aspirations: On the one hand, Jerusalem and all that that signifies; on the other, Israeli Arabs. Al-Tibi has already announced he will be running in the Knesset elections. These things should therefore not surprise us since they merely reconfirm information we already have.

[Talmor] Here are reactions to the report: The Likud said it is additional proof that the government has a systematic policy to divide Jerusalem. Likud Secretariat Chairman 'Uzi Landau said that during the Knesset's winter session he will raise a motion stipulating that over 80 MK's will be required to approve concessions on Jerusalem.

Tzomet said that it has often called for pressing charges against al-Tibi for collaborating with the enemy although he is an Israeli citizen, but all its demands have been rejected by the government, which itself collaborates with 'Arafat.

Begin: Hamas To Halt Operations if 'Ayyash Freed

TA1910141495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Oct 95 p A8

[Report by Knesset correspondent Gid'on Alon]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Likud Knesset Member Beni Begin disclosed yesterday that he has received information that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is demanding from the PLO within the framework of the agreement to be signed between it and the Palestinian Authority [PA] a general pardon for all Hamas activists, including "The Engineer," Yahya 'Ayyash; in return, Hamas will cease its terrorist activities against Israel.

Begin addressed an emergency meeting of the Likud Knesset faction that convened in the wake of two terrorist attacks in Lebanon and the agreements reached with the PA on the speedy evacuation of the West Bank towns.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said on the issue that "we are witnessing an attempt by 'Arafat to reach a tactical agreement with Hamas to suspend terrorist attacks against Israel until the Knesset elections. The aim of the agreement is to permit the government to hand over territories to the PA."

Referring to events in Lebanon, Netanyahu said that Operation Accountability has made the Galilee's population and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers hostages.

He claims that the operation created "safe havens" for Hizballah in Lebanon and that the government continues to give Hizballah license to harm IDF soldiers. "If we do not respond after nine soldiers are killed, what should Hizballah think?" He said they think that this is a cowardly government. [passage omitted]

Peres Rejects Evaluation al-Asad Against Peace

TA2010071795 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by correspondents Ge'ula Even and Shlomi Stein; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Even] Good morning, sir. What the Foreign Ministry document says is what Avigdor Qahalani has been saying all along: Al-Asad really does not want peace; therefore, we are wasting our time.

[Peres] So, what was Qahalani afraid of and why did he set up the Third Way? If al-Asad does not want peace, there will not be peace.

[Even] There will also not be negotiations.

[Peres] That is correct. If Qahalani is right that al-Asad does not want peace, then why set up his own party?

[Even] For how long has the document existed?

[Peres] It is not an official Foreign Ministry document that decides policy. From time to time, the ministry's Center for Political Research issues evaluations of the situation.

[Even] Are these opinions usually accepted?

[Peres] They are accepted as material for study, but they are not the official positions of the Foreign Ministry.

[Stein] Do you agree with the analysis that al-Asad does not at present want progress in the negotiations with Israel and is digging in regarding his positions? In other words, has the lid been sealed on the negotiations with Syria and the possibility of an agreement before Israeli elections in November 1996?

[Peres] I see the situation differently. I think that Israel must remain positive. It should offer peace, and if the other side refuses, then that is its responsibility. I do not suggest building on al-Asad's refusals. It is preferable for him to express his own refusals instead of our doing it for him. We have so far appeared to be a state aspiring to peace with Syria and ready for compromise with it, which is also the truth. If the Syrians reject this, then let us leave it up to them to do so. I am therefore not too impressed with the document.

[Stein] Perhaps you do not read al-Asad properly and he strategically does not really want peace.

[Peres] I read him correctly. If he does not want peace, then forget it, but I do not want to share his lack of desire and jump to any conclusions. If he says he has a peace strategy, and America says Syria has a peace strategy, then good. But al-Asad has to be told what we are saying. In the past three years, we have signed three far-reaching agreements, and they have taught a lesson, which is that negotiations have to be conducted at all levels and on all issues. The idea of discussing only one of the many issues and only on one level is wrong and will assure that no progress is made. Let us therefore differentiate between strategy.... [pauses] I really think that al-Asad wants peace and, in fact, that he has no alternative. He lost three suppliers: the Russian supplier for arms, a supplier for Arab coalitions, and a supplier for excuses — Israel. I suggest that we not change our policy.

[Stein] Are the Americans perhaps not doing enough? Had they been under greater pressure, they might have brought about an arrangement before the Knesset elections. I want to remind ourselves that such an arrangement includes a solution for south Lebanon.

[Peres] What I am telling you, we are also telling the Americans. We tell them the following: First, the agreement with Syria must include everything between us and them. It must be the crowning achievement: To bring about a comprehensive peace. Second, we want to negotiate at all levels. We cannot adapt ourselves to the Syrian hierarchy where al-Shihabi is number two. Our chief of staff is not included in the political echelon; he is the top soldier.

[Stein] What does the rank have to do with it; there is no agreement on basic positions. Al-Asad rejects all the Israeli demands.

[Peres] The rank also determines the possibilities. We do not have a warehouse from which we draw various solutions. The role of the rank is to find creative, new solutions. Therefore, the rank is of utmost importance. Third, is to discuss all the issues, because in general, we have to discuss the overall picture and not this or that detail.

[Even] Mr. Peres, a senior American source told our political correspondent Udi Segal that Israel is also not very interested in peace at this time. The evaluation of al-Asad presented in the document, together with the fact that the Palestinian agreement is hard to swallow, might have led you and the prime minister to conclude that if Labor wants to win the next elections it has to give up negotiations with al-Asad at this time.

[Peres] There are people who speculate no matter what their rank. Why does he deal with speculation? We say quite clearly that we are in favor of the continuation of the peace process, and we have said that winning peace is even more important than winning the elections. We are not conducting a policy of elections; we are conducting a policy of peace. In my heart, I am also convinced that if that policy works, the people will gives us their trust. I do not believe in conducting policy based on opinion polls. We will conduct a policy for the future.

[Even] So, are you ignoring that document?

[Peres] We do not ignore it. It is good that people think, express opinions, and exchange ideas, but it is not the holy scripture.

Ministry Report Pessimistic on Syria Track

TA2010070495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left for New York last night to participate in the organization's 50th anniversary celebrations. He will meet with 20 leaders and address the special session of the General Assembly. Our political correspondent reports that during his visit to the United States, Mr. Rabin will meet with President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher. During the special General Assembly session, Christopher will meet with the Syrian foreign minister to try to bring about the resumption of the negotiations between Israel and Syria.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that a document prepared by the Foreign Ministry's Center for Political Research expresses doubts about the chances of advancing the talks with the Syrians before the 1996 Knesset elections. The classified document says that the Syrian position has recently become hardline and skeptical about the peace process' chances. The document also quotes the Syrian chief of staff as saying on 6 October that the Israeli stand has created the danger of a new war breaking out. The author of the document raises the possibility that these developments are tied to the increase of Hizballah activities in south Lebanon.

Likud To Present Motion To Disband Knesset

TA1910181195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Likud has decided to present the Knesset next week with a motion to disband the house because of the prime minister's refusal to hold early elections. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Likud faction Chairman Moshe Qatzav said that the government has reached the end of its road and the Knesset must force Yitzhaq Rabin to bring the elections forward.

CIS Immigrants Said Likely To Topple Rabin

TA1910164395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Oct 95 p B2

[Article by Amnon Barzilay: "Labor Finds it Hard To Absorb"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor is taking the latest findings tragically. The current government's absorption of immigrants from the CIS is seen as a major success in the West, but the Russian immigrants are unimpressed with what is being said abroad about their absorption. They did not shout with joy when they read that Professor Allen Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, praised their absorption in Israel. To the immigrants, the government's absorption policy is an outright failure, and this deeply concerns Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. A year before the Knesset elections, the new data has sent shock waves through Labor. If the next elections depend on the Russian immigrants — and they probably will — the next prime minister will be Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu.

In 1992, the Russian immigrants, then a limited force, led to the downfall of the Likud and Yitzhaq Shamir. In the 1996 elections, they will have more clout and they will bring down the Rabin-led Labor government. According to the data, Labor will sustain a double blow: Not only do the CIS immigrants prefer Netanyahu to Rabin, but Labor could lose about three Knesset seats, among other reasons, because Natan Sharansky will head an immigrants party.

In the previous elections, the situation was the other way around. The immigrants gave Labor six seats compared to three for the right-wing parties. By the elections, the electoral strength of the CIS immigrants will reach some 11 percent of the total electorate (some 13 Knesset seats), only 2 percent less than the Israeli Arabs.

The election results, as perceived today, will be the following: Sharansky and other immigrant parties will get 40 percent of the immigrant vote (some five seats), the right-wing parties will win 35 percent, and Labor and Meretz will get some 25 percent.

Labor Secretary Nisim Zvili and Ofir Paz-Pines, Labor's coordinator of activities, met 17 October to discuss how to bolster party support among the immigrants. It is doubtful whether Labor has a clear-cut answer on how to go about that, but Paz-Pines said there are at least two conclusions: A party headed by Sharansky will not be in the opposition; therefore, the next minister of immigrant absorption will be a new immigrant from Russia.

Among the plentiful bad news, there is a single ray of hope, and Labor has jumped on it as if it had found a treasure. Some 40 percent of the immigrants have not finally decided whether they will support Rabin or Netanyahu.

The "Russian danger" and the erosion in new immigrant support for the government, especially Rabin, was first realized by the prime minister's bureau some 18 months ago. The news was received with shock and disappointment. Ministers spoke about the ingratitude of the immigrants. Unemployment has been reduced, housing has been provided, and nevertheless, the decline in support among the immigrants for the government has continued. Immigrant Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban had an original explanation. In one of the cabinet meetings, he brought with him the election platforms of Labor and Meretz and compared the chapters dealing with absorption. "Had I erased the name of the party any objective observer would have said that Labor's platform was Meretz' and vice versa." The absorption chapter in Meretz' platform, Tzaban added, is solid and balanced, while "in Labor's platform the sky's the limit." Therefore, Tzaban claimed, the main reason for the Russian immigrants' dissatisfaction is the discovery that there is no connection between the Rabin government's promises and the outcome on the ground.

Shamir preferred Jewish settlements to immigrant absorption loan guarantees, and lost the immigrants. On the other hand, Rabin succeeded in giving the immigrants the feeling that immigration headed his priorities, and the absorption data are impressive. Unemployment among immigrants was 30 percent five years ago and is now 9 percent. If the immigrants who arrived in 1990, the peak year for immigration, are isolated, then unemployment among them is even lower than the national average. There have been impressive results in housing, thanks largely to apartments built by Ari'el Sharon when he was minister of construction and housing. Some 70 percent of the families (excluding senior citizens and single parents) have already bought apartments. If we take into account that only 80 to 83 percent of longtime Israelis own their own homes, that is definitely a triumph.

The immigrants, however, do not thank the government's absorption policy for their successful absorption. They expected Rabin to get up and announce that he is earmarking $1 billion of U.S. loan guarantees for CIS immigrants. Rabin and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, for reasons of their own, took a different line and allocated funds for immigrants from the current account. The loan guarantees, the immigrants observed, were earmarked for building roads and solving economic problems that do not necessarily have anything to do with immigration.

U.S. Miltary Aid to Arabs 'Burdening' Israel

TA1910165995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Oct 95 p B1

[Article by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Submarines That Disappeared"]

[FBIS Translated Text] None of submarines in the possession of Arab navies — including the Syrian, Egyptian, and Libyan — is capable of going under water; some cannot even sail. They have become unusable because of difficulties created in the wake of the collapse of the USSR and the fact that some Arab countries still owe Russia money. An entire arm of the Arab navies is no longer usable.

This is an unprecedented situation that could significantly tilt the balance of naval power in Israel's favor. Alas, at the same time, a conflicting process is taking place: The United States is providing the Egyptian Navy with a significant offensive capability it did not have before. This is ironic: Arab countries that are politically connected with the United States are increasing their military might, thus burdening Israel. At the same time, the military technology and offensive ability of countries that relied on Russian equipment is on the decline.

Syria is a good example: At the time, the Syrians purchased three Russian Romeo-type submarines. The Syrian Navy started encountering difficulties the minute the USSR collapsed. The submarines stopped going under water for several reasons; a large storm on the Baltic added to the damage, and today the submarines are condemned. This also makes it difficult for helicopters to practice antisubmarine warfare because they have no submarines to practice against.

The Libyan Navy has a twofold problem, having both Russian and Western systems. Its six Russian submarines have stopped sailing due to maintenance problems. Its Western equipment (British, Italian, and French) is mostly condemned due to the Western embargo on Libya resulting in a lack of spare parts. Algiers has two upgraded Russian Kilo-type submarines (the type Iran also purchased) that have been in Russia for repairs for quite some time.

To complete the list, Egyptian submarines (Romeo) have stopped taking to sea for the same reasons. Here, however, the Americans stepped in. In addition to the four condemned Russian submarines, Egypt owns four Chinese-made submarines which the United States is willing to repair. Repairs of one have already ended. The Chinese submarines will have equipment they have not had so far: harpoon missiles that can be fired from under water, an upgraded torpedo system, and an advanced sonar system.

Hence, there is absolutely no reason to deduce from the drop of the Arab navies' submarine power that there is no longer any naval threat. The proof is the anti-ship missile capability the Arabs have. Again, Syria is an example: The Syrians have a surface-to- sea missile that can hit targets in and south of Haifa Bay. The missile, dubbed Spal [name as transliterated], has a 320-km range. It is guided by a radar that sends a picture of the target back to its operators who can update the missile data while in midair.

Syria has been equipping its vessels with upgraded missiles, with a 60-km range, since the Yom Kippur War. This missile system, just like the submarines, requires repairs and maintenance. Russia, however, is demanding that Syria pay its enormous debt (which some reports place at $12 billion) for past weapons shipments before it begins discussing repair work.

Outgoing Navy Commander 'Ami Eylon has commented about what the Americans are doing for the Egyptian Navy: The Americans provided the Egyptians with more advanced Harpoon missiles than it sold Israel. The Egyptian ability to attack with sea missiles is even more threatening. Each of the two U.S. frigates given to Egypt can conduct independent warfare in every field, including an ability to launch helicopters that take off from the vessels. With the help of the Americans, Egypt today can prepare a comprehensive operational picture during a war — an ability it did not have in the past. No wonder that the outgoing Israeli Navy chief views the Egyptian Navy as a source of concern.

The difficulty in maintaining the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] qualitative edge over the Arab armies — due to the supply of U.S. and Western equipment — will be raised in the strategic dialogue with the United States that will be held in Washington this week.

Israeli intelligence experts say that the difficulties are not only due to the fact that advanced Western equipment and technologies are being sold to some Arab countries (the Saudis, for example, have recently received their first advanced F-15E). The Americans are also upgrading the Arabs' ability through joint military maneuvers that combine advanced Western combat doctrines as well as lessons learned from the Gulf War.

Caller Threatens To Sabotage Economic Summit

JN1910214395 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic
21-27 Oct 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Tuesday [17 October], SHIHAN received a strange phone call. The caller claimed that he is the head of a movement called the Arab Forewarning Movement [harakat al-nadhir al-'arabi] and that they are preparing to carry out subversive operations that would render the Amman conference a failure and deal a painful blow to the peace process and to those who uphold it.

When SHIHAN asked him who he represents and who was backing him, he said: "We are supported by God." When we said that we considered the phone call to be a bad joke by someone who wants to become famous, the caller said that this was not the case and that the government knows about the movement's intentions, particularly since the movement carried out two operations in the past two weeks.

As soon as the phone call was over, SHIHAN tried to talk to the minister of the interior. He was not there, and we were referred to the director of the Criminal Investigations Department who categorically denied that two terrorist operations were carried out in Jordan in the past two weeks. He informed us that the security departments receive such false phone threats all the time.

At any rate, we did what we had to do by reporting the incident, and God be our witness.

Gazans, Camp Residents Express Gratitude to King

JN1910215795 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinians residing in camps and in the Gaza strip expressed their gratitude and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn for his royal directives to solve difficulties facing the Palestinians residing in Jordan. They also expressed their gratitude for his majesty's stance vis-a-vis the issue of the camps which was raised recently.

In their cables to the Hashemite Royal Court, they said his majesty's directives were deeply appreciated by those residing in the camps. Throughout the past few decades, Jordan, which did not forsake the legitimate national rights and identity of the Palestinian people, has provided the Palestinians with job opportunities, granted them Jordanian citizenship, and treated them as al-Ansar [reference to those who helped the Prophet Muhammad in Medina after his flight from Mecca] treated their brothers with whom they shared their daily bread and lived with them as loving brothers through thick and thin.

The cables loaded the Hashemites' role in helping the Palestinian people—a role that no one can deny or cast doubts upon. They noted that King Husayn has, on all international forums, called for solving the issue of the Palestinian refugees and displaced persons within the framework of international law, and on the basis of international legitimacy. Thanks to his majesty's directives, they added, these constant principles were further stressed in the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty.

History will mark your honorable and heroic stands alongside the Palestinian people to enable them to restore their national rights. These stands are not strange, coming as they do from His Majesty King Husayn, the scion of the Hashemite family and heir of the Great Arab Revolt, which was launched on the basis of unifying all the Arabs.

Chamber of Deputies Extends President's Term

NC1910122695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1150 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Christian Usi, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent at the Chamber of Deputies, reports that by a majority of 110 votes the Chamber of Deputies today ratified a draft bill providing for extending President Ilyas al-Hirawi's term . It extends his term one time and in an extraordinary way for three years, expiring on 23 November 1989 [as heard]. Eleven deputies opposed the draft bill. [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi To Address Nation

NC2010070495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Constitution has been amended by the Chamber of Deputies by a majority 110 votes. A paragraph has been added to Article 49 of the Constitution providing for President Ilyas al-Hirawi to remain in office for three more years, until 23 November 1998. President al-Hirawi will address the nation today and will focus on the next stage.

Conflict, Military Operations Continue in South

Israelis Stage Mock Raids

NC2010102395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Throughout last night, Israeli military aircraft flew over villages in the western and central sectors of the south. They staged mock raids and dropped flares over these areas. Also, Israeli helicopters flew along the coast line from al-Qasimiyah, Tyre up to the villages of al-Saksakiyah, 'Adlun, and al-Sarafand in the al-Zahrani area. Israeli gunboats have patrolled along the coast from al-Naqurah to al-Sarafand.

'Resistance' Attacks SLA

NC2010101595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Resistance has announced that one of its groups attacked the al-Tuhrah position, which is manned by troops from Lahd's forces [South Lebanese Army, SLA] with rockets and machine-gun fire today.

The hills around Iqlim al-Tuffah, especially 'Arab Salim and Jabal al-Rafi', came under sporadic Israeli artillery fire.

'Resistance' Analyzes Report on Israeli Casualties

NC2010083995 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official Islamic Resistance source has commented on an 18 October AFP correspondent's report from occupied Jerusalem. The report said 14 Israeli soldiers were wounded by an explosion in an ammunition depot in the occupied Golan Heights.

The Islamic Resistance official said: The report reads almost like the incident was ordinary, except for the discrepancies in the number of wounded, the cause of the explosion, and the type of depot. This caused us to investigate the report's accuracy and the motive for broadcasting it. We reached the following conclusions:

Traditional armies usually adopt certain measures before choosing the location of an ammunition, explosives, or weapons depot. Each type of depot has its own type of specifications and is governed by its own particular set of measures. A depot usually has high security precautions to protect against accidental loss of life. The Israeli army, as a modern and sophisticated army, would normally follow such procedures very strictly.

The Islamic Resistance official continued: Furthermore, the international media and the Israeli entity's local media did not report the explosion, even though it occurred in a strategic area, the occupied Golan Heights. Any explosion in that area would normally attract the attention of personnel from local and international media. This time it did not happen. All that happened was that a report was made by a Zionist military source to an AFP correspondent in occupied Jerusalem.

The Islamic Resistance official said: Leaking the report in the form of this unlikely story proves that the 14 wounded troops fell in another place, possibly the operations scene in south Lebanon or western al-Biqa', specifically where the Islamic Resistance carried out two significant operations. In the second operation, the enemies admitted that they had three dead and six wounded. The number of enemy casualties, as estimated by Resistance fighters, was about 20 dead or wounded.

The source concluded: As to the Zionist troops' standard of performance during that operation, they failed to make any significant response. The proof is that all the Resistance men returned safely to base.

Hizballah Radio on Israeli Reaction, Peace Policy

NC1910124895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 10 Oct 95

[From the "Spotlight on Events" Program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] When speaking about the Zionist enemy leaders' new threats—giving the Zionist army and its agents a green light to carry out necessary actions—the occupation army's extraordinary preparedness, and fears that such a charged atmosphere might create, a question arises about the enemy's options to respond to the victorious Islamic Resistance operations.

The Zionists need no direct reasons or particular occasions for their aggression. Obviously the occupation army misses no opportunity to launch a new attack, be it after a Resistance operation or with no prior developments.

We say this to emphasize that in its confrontation with the Resistance, the enemy has exhausted all methods and options. The enemy has nothing left to hide and there are no alternative options.

This enemy has always used all of its ways and means to strike the Resistance and to eliminate it and weaken its ranks, but none of these means worked or achieved the desired goal. On the contrary, all of the enemy's experiments were counterproductive. [passage omitted]

After the latest operations Washington directed all its fury, indignation, and hostility against Hizballah because it viewed these operations as ruining the political situation it seeks to perpetuate. The theme for this situation is that settlement is advancing with firm steps, proceeding from the U.S.-sponsored ceremonial signing of the Taba Accord in Washington and in the run- up to the Amman economic summit.

The Resistance operations dispelled this celebratory atmosphere and refocused attention on the other side of the picture. This might not be in the interest of Washington, which launched a media and political campaign to enable the Zionists to escalate the situation on the ground, because it will further spoil the celebratory mood.

Washington seems concerned about this situation because of the Amman summit planned for late this month. It wants the summit to be an occasion for a grand normalization ceremony, enabling it to capitalize on the steps it took in the settlement process by closing the Jordanian and Palestinian dossiers. It wants to proceed from this event and create a large breach in the Arab structure in its own interest and in that of its strategic ally, the Zionist entity.

Hizballah's Qasim Cites 'Futile' U.S. Pressure

NC2010092895 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The enemy's leaders are in a state of great confusion due to the repeated strikes by the Islamic Resistance against the occupation troops in the occupied border strip, particularly the most recent operations that killed or wounded tens of Zionists.

The confusion was evident in the statements made by Israeli military officials trying to find excuses for recent incidents in the south and in western al-Biqa'. A Zionist military source announced that an investigation will be carried out into what he described as errors made by the occupation soldiers during the Islamic Resistance's attacks.

The enemies's confusion and fear made them use booby-traps, which they planted on the roads and some villages, to cause panic among the citizens after failing to face the Resistance fighters. The enemies also threatened aggressive retaliation.

Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has declared that the enemy's threats are worthless because the Resistance is fully prepared to confront any aggression, large or small.

Shaykh Qasim toured the positions of the Islamic Resistance and remarked: Those who come to the steadfast territories of the south will find our mujahidin lying in wait for any enemy planning aggression against us. We assure our dear kinsfolk that while these heroes are here, fully prepared to confront any aggression, there is no cause for fear and the enemy's occasional threats are worthless.

Hizballah's deputy secretary general added: We and the mujahidin feel that the country and the territories are safe. Morale is very high. When the United States calls on the Lebanese people to shoulder their responsibilities, our answer is that the Lebanese people are doing so fully. When the Israeli enemy blusters, we declare that this bluster does not frighten the resistance mujahidin, who are ready to sacrifice their blood for the sake of being near God and for liberating man and territory.

Qasim urged all people to close ranks behind these mujahidin because jihad is their only option to liberate the territories and expel the occupier by force. He noted that negotiations and political settlements are useless and said that U.S. pressures or promises are futile when it comes restoring usurped rights.

His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, member of Hizballah's Consultative Council, toured western al-Biqa'. He met with the fighters and members of the

Islamic Resistance and congratulated them on the recent operation carried out by the Islamic Resistance in al-Qatranah. He praised their heroism, steadfastness, and courage versus the Zionist enemy.

In a speech to the mujahidin, his eminence declared that the enemy, who failed to face the mujahidin on the battlefronts, is now resorting to threats.

Yazbik said: These threats will not frighten us and will only strengthen our resolve to pursue a policy of resistance.

He remarked that the Jews who are found on our land are dying on our land. He noted that the struggle against the Zionists will continue until victory or martyrdom.

Hizballah: U.S. 'Responsible' for Israeli Attacks

NC2010114395 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 18 Oct 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has stated that the United States is a full partner with Israel and its acts of aggression. It called on world opinion to ponder the flagrant U.S. support for the Zionist occupation.

In response to official U.S. statements on the latest operations carried out by the Islamic Resistance, Hizballah released the following statement:

We were not surprised by the U.S. reaction, which is expected after every victorious operation by the Islamic Resistance and after every setback or defeat inflicted on the enemy soldiers. We have grown used to this flagrant and blatant logic of the U.S. Administration. The U.S. Administration believes that the Zionist occupation soldiers defend themselves in the south and that the entire Lebanese people and Government are held responsible for the death of Zionist soldiers and describe the operation as terrorist aggression.

Even though we did not bet on a moderate or neutral position by Washington, we call on world opinion to ponder the flagrant U.S. insolence and absolute support for the Zionist occupation and its defense and justification of Zionist actions. This position makes the U.S. Administration a full partner of the steady, aggressive course of the Zionist entity.

The statements by the United States prompt us to declare the following:

1. Washington supports with utmost strength the Zionist occupation of the south and western al-Biqa'. It refuses to apply any kind of pressure to remove this occupation through the Resistance or the international community, whose will Washington has crippled and whose decision it confiscated.

2. Holding the Lebanese people and Government and Syria responsible for what happened and defending the occupation soldiers' right to launch acts of aggression on the pretext of self-defense represents the most sophisticated cover for the aggression and indicates continuation of the Zionist aggressive course with full U.S. cover.

3. The hysteria that hit both U.S. and Zionist officials emphasize the Resistance's importance and its effective role in removing the occupation. Washington and Tel Aviv have enough reason to fear that such successful acts by the Islamic Resistance would undermine the enemy's resources, weaken its morale, and force it to withdraw.

4. These empty threats, which indicate folly and aggressiveness, will have no effect on our people and strugglers. We have grown used to such threats and have often received translations of these threats. They only increased our people's strength, firmness, and tenacity to our right to resist and struggle to recover our occupied land. The acts of aggression by Washington and Tel Aviv were to no avail; they only caused fresh frustrations and painful reversals.

5. After these statements and opinions, Washington will be held fully responsible for any Zionist aggression against our kinsfolk and people. At the same time, the enemy is fully aware that we will continue to cling to our right and duty to defend our kinsfolk with all available means and resources. The enemy will pay a heavier price for any adventure or aggression and the losses of the past few days will be only a small portion of that price.

Vice President: 'No Progress' in Peace Process

MM2010131695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 95 p 4

[Interview with Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Humaydi] Despite all that has happened, is Syria still committed to the peace negotiations with Israel?

[Mashariqah] The peace Syria is seeking to achieve in the region is a just and comprehensive peace based on the principles of justice and the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. And also the Madrid formula on the basis of which the peace process was launched at the U.S. initiative. That is, a peace which restores the rights to their owners and provides security and stability for all parties in the region — a peace in which all aspects of occupation and the effects of aggression disappear, a peace which leads to Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines on the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories, in addition to its withdrawal from southern Lebanon, hence leading to the recovery of land and rights. Namely, a peace based on the land-for-peace principle and full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines.

Syria has on several occasions stressed its willingness to comply with the objective requirements of peace. It also stressed that peace is its strategic option. And President Hafiz al-Asad said in his speech to the Armed Forces in 1973 that "we are not fond of killing and destruction. We defend ourselves against murder and destruction." He also said that we are seeking a just and comprehensive peace that leads to the liberation of the land and the restoration of the rights.

[Humaydi] Is there any progress so far?

[Mashariqah] Four years have elapsed since the Madrid conference, but no progress has been achieved in terms of attaining the aims for which the conference was held.

[Humaydi] Why has no progress been made?

[Mashariqah] That is attributable first and last to Israel's procrastination, maneuvering, and lack of seriousness, in addition to the fabricated obstacles it is putting in the way of the peace process to prevent it achieving its aims. What is prompting it to do this is its arrogance and the desire for domination and hegemony and to retain the occupied Arab territories and Jerusalem as an eternal capital. This is confirmed by the statements made by some of its leaders from time to time, namely that there will be no return to the 1967 borders and that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Israel. It is also confirmed by its continued building of new settlements and the expansion of existing ones. It is also pursuing a policy of repression and torture against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories, and of noncompliance with the resolutions of international legitimacy on the issue, especially the Security Council resolutions mentioned earlier.

Israel is also seeking to control the region's political, economic, cultural, and military destinies. It has delusions about Torah Israel sometimes and historic Israel at other times, and it is working to become the dominant power in the region, relying on the foreign aid it receives and its huge arsenal of conventional weapons and mass-destruction weapons, including germ, chemical, and nuclear weapons. And it is trying to reshape the region and its characteristics and to launch new phrases like "Middle Eastern" [al- sharq awsatiyah] in order to erase the nationalist identity of the Arab region and to push the Arab future into a dark tunnel.

[Humaydi] Do you expect imminent meetings between military experts?

[Mashariqah] Military experts are not decisionmakers. Their task is to complete some aspects and meetings, and they consult their leaderships. But nothing was decided between the two sides at the meetings of the chiefs of staff.

[Humaydi] To what extent does Syria take account of the elections in Israel?

[Mashariqah] The time factor has never put pressure on Syria. Syrian is committed to the constants of its objective position on the peace process. It cannot act on the basis of what is said about the lack of time and the approach of elections to be held here or there. The election issue has never worried Syria, and nothing will force Syria to rush things or to accept anything incompatible with its national and pan-Arab interests. When Syria attended the Madrid conference and agreed to participate in the peace process it took no account of any electoral processes. Syria moves forward or stops in the peace process in the light of the status of the peace process itself.

[Humaydi] Do you see any difference between the Likud and the Labor Party?

[Mashariqah] If there is any difference between them it is maybe in the form, not the substance.

[Humaydi] Do you believe that a peace agreement with Israel requires any changes in or development of political action and relations among political parties?

[Mashariqah] In its march toward the future Syria proceeds from constants and principles dictated by higher national and pan-Arab interests. As is known, Syria has since the launch of the "Corrective Movement" (in 1970) adopted pluralism in the spheres of political and economic action. In the economic sphere, we rely on the activities of three sectors: the public sector, the private sector, and the joint sector. There is full coordination among them for the sake of the homeland's interests.

At the political level, Syria has adopted political and party pluralism. And the "National Progressive Front" [NPF] (formed in 1972) is the framework that includes all national and progressive forces in the country in order for them to work together to achieve the homeland's prosperity. The NPF's charter and its bylaws define its tasks, the aims it is seeking to achieve, its institutions, and its working methods.

The Front's experiment in Syria is a pioneering experiment, and through it Syria has secured an unprecedented achievement on the Arab and international levels. It is a vital and flexible experiment that responds to the requirements of national and pan- Arab action, whether with regard to its powers, which includes all the homeland's issues and the people's affairs, or the forces — political parties and people's organizations — it comprises. The experiment is strengthening through the experience it is gaining with the passage of time.

[Humaydi] What are your expectations for the future of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

[Mashariqah] The Taba agreement abandons the rights of the people and the nation. It contains big concessions at the expense of the just and scared cause. It places the Palestinian people on an endless road of loss and pain, instead of putting them on a clear road toward liberation and independence.

Algerian Official on 'Israeli Arms,' 'Conspiracy'

JN1910185395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mohamed Lakhdar Lakhdari, deputy head of Algeria's National Transitional Council [NTC], lauded Syria's pan-Arab positions and the pioneering militant role it is carrying out in defense of Arab rights and the Arab nation's dignity.

In a statement to a SYRIAN NEWS AGENCY, SANA, correspondent today, Lakhdari, who is currently leading an NTC delegation on a visit to Syria, said: Algeria takes pride in Syria's role to defend the Arab nation's causes and to regain all Arab rights.

He stressed Algeria's full support for Syria's principled and consistent positions on the peace process in terms of liberating the whole Golan and southern Lebanon and returning the rights to their legitimate owners in implementation of UN resolutions and those of international legitimacy in a way that will achieve security and peace in the region and the world.

Regarding the talks held in Damascus, Lakhdari said: We held talks and a host of meetings with Syrian officials on bilateral relations and ways to promote them in various parliamentary and economic fields by coordinating the positions of both councils at international forums, increasing trade exchanges, and promoting economic relations in a way that will achieve and enhance the common interest and bilateral relations as a prelude to the desired Arab economic integration.

He added: The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party is an effective Arab political force that defends the nation's crucial causes and right to live. He hailed what he saw and felt during this visit in terms of Syria's modern civilization and great achievements realized under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership.

Lakhdari said: We take pride in what we saw in terms of the great development in all walks of life. Suffice it for Syria to be proud of having achieved self-sufficiency. This is a great thing that supports the pillars of Syrian steadfastness in confronting challenges.

Moreover, he lauded the historic relations and the deeply-rooted fraternal and militant links between Syria and Algeria. He also hailed Syria's pan-Arab positions in support of Algeria and its militant liberation movement.

Regarding the situation in Algeria, he said: What is taking place in Algeria is a large conspiracy concocted against the country to cripple its capabilities and resources, strike at its economic and educational installations, and kill civilians and innocent people.

Lakhdari pointed out that there are Israeli arms in the hands of the those involved in the conspiracy against Algeria. He asserted that Algerian authorities have seized these arms. He emphasized the Algerian people's adherence to their identity, Arab character, and pan-Arab line of struggle alongside the Arab national forces.

He said: The Algerian people are now making preparations for the presidential elections to justly and decisively elect their representative. This will be the starting point for restoring stability and normal life in the country and ending the Algerian people's current ordeal.

Lakhdari pointed to the role of the hostile western media in depicting what is taking place in Algeria by blowing things out of proportion in a way that serves their aggressive schemes.

'Hostile' Call for Moving Embassy Viewed

JN1910174895 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 16 Oct 95 p 9

["A Viewpoint" column by Fu'ad Mardud: "Hostile Projects"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Every time pro-Israel elements in the U.S. Congress want to declare their support for Israel's policies or to welcome Yitzhaq Rabin in the United States, they raise the issue of moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, even though such a step may endanger the Middle East peace process.

Yitzhaq Rabin is now coming to the United States to open Zionist celebrations in New York on the third millennium anniversary of the establishment of the holy city. Bob Dole, leader of the U.S. Senate majority; and Newt Gingrich, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, are planning to welcome Rabin in their own way by presenting draft bills to the Senate and the House of Representatives on moving that embassy to Jerusalem.

Such a hostile move can be viewed as part of the celebrations, which began in Israel on 4 September to mark the third millennium of the establishment of the city. These celebrations are primarily aimed at Judaizing Jerusalem and imposing a new situation, which will leave nothing for the final-status negotiations.

What is really saddening is some Arabs' limited reaction to such draft bills discussed by the U.S. Congress or to the Zionist celebrations that will last for nearly one and a half years. Even some Arabs are taking part in these celebrations by conducting joint air exercises with Israel or by agreeing to postpone talks on the future of the city until such time when Israel will leave nothing for future negotiations.

Extension of al-Hirawi's Term Viewed

JN2010113595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies' endorsement, by an overwhelming majority, of a bill extending President Ilyas al-Hirawi's term of office for three more years, saying: During their debate at the extension session, the Lebanese deputies asserted that the time ahead should see greater support for southern Lebanon and the resistance, a strengthening of the alliance with Syria, and more exemplary pan-Arab stands.

AL-BA'TH adds: The continued Syrian-Lebanese coordination in all areas has thwarted the efforts of those who stand to gain from strife in Lebanon and helped the endeavors made to achieve a recovery. Moreover, this coordination promoted stability in Lebanon, which was about to be decimated in the furnace of war and sedition. Right now, Lebanon is strong thanks to the awareness of the Lebanese people and their national and pan-Arab positions. The sedition has failed to partition Lebanon. Likewise, the endless Israeli attacks on Lebanese villages have failed to drag Lebanon into Israel's sphere of influence through a separate deal.

The paper goes on to say: The Lebanese people and leadership have set an example in steadfastness, adherence to sovereignty and territorial integrity, and resistance to achieve the objective of liberation. Syria has extended a helping hand to fraternal Lebanon. It has made sacrifices and presided over a recovery plan to effect a reconciliation among the Lebanese without expecting anything in return. It has done so to ward off the dangers posed to this Arab country.

Lebanese 'Resistance' Said Result of Occupation

JN1910190395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Israel ignores the stick in its eye and is looking in vain for a straw in others' eyes. That is, Israel does not want to admit that the Lebanese national resistance is a result of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. Therefore, it is trying to link the Lebanese resistance to external factors, particularly to Syria. Israel knows very well that its occupation of southern Lebanon has led to the breakout of the Lebanese national resistance, which Israel describes as terrorism, although it denies such a knowledge. Israel's acknowledgement of this fact, however, is sometimes shown clearly by its very denial of it. This happened yesterday when the Israeli prime minister threatened resistant, steadfast southern Lebanon.

Rabin talked about the human losses Israel suffered during its invasion of southern Lebanon. Regardless of the number of the Israeli soldiers who were killed during that aggression—a figure was disclosed perhaps for the first time—the Israeli prime minister said that Israel's aggression took place in 1982, that is, 13 years ago. Will Israel ask itself if it has the right to keep its army in southern Lebanon for 13 years, and even since Israel's aggression in 1978, 17 years ago, when it occupied the so-called border strip, security belt, or the good wall that was run for Israel by its former agent Sa'd Haddad?

During these 17 years, Israel usurped the Litani river water, turned green southern Lebanon into a scorched land, denied workers on land and at sea the sources of their living, and sent thousands of Lebanese men and women to Ansar and al-Khiyam detention camps on Lebanese territory and to Israeli prisons, violating international law that bans the movement of prisoners outside their national soil. This is in addition to the daily air raids and artillery shelling by the Israeli occupation and the agent militias. All this is often accompanied by shelling by the Israeli navy.

Despite all this, the Israelis are talking about an external or Syrian instigation of the Lebanese national resistance or terrorism, as they unjustly put it. The whole world knows who is the terrorist in southern Lebanon. The Israeli Government even gave a clue to the world to realize that terrorism when it announced the day before yesterday that it gave a free hand to the officers of the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon. We, as well as the world, remember that the so-called commander of the northern region talked about the possibility of Israeli shells landing among civilians. This has made every observer conclude without any bias that the Israeli Government is deliberately killing Lebanese civilians.

What has severely shocked the observers is the Israeli prime minister's statement that Syria will make a big mistake if it believes that by encouraging terrorist attacks, as he put it, Israel will be exposed to pressures in everything that is related to the peace process. We, however, said enough about Israel's terrorist allegations. But what does Syria want from an attempt to put pressure on Israel, as the Israeli prime minister put it? Syria does not want anything other than just and comprehensive peace that will return the Arabs' usurped rights and push the Israeli occupation back from the occupied Syrian, Lebanese, and Arab territories to beyond the 4 June 1967 lines in implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. This is what Syria wants. Does the Israeli prime minister want to say that Israel rejects the resolutions of the international community, which are the backbone of the Middle East peace process?

Goals of Israeli 'Escalation' in Lebanon Viewed

JN2010112895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In one of its commentaries, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The current Israeli buildup and the threats it is making against southern Lebanon are reminiscent of the tense climate that preceded and accompanied the convening of the Madrid peace conference four years ago. Prior to this conference, Israel launched a large-scale aggression on southern Lebanon that continued throughout the days of the conference to thwart and frustrate it.

The paper adds: By this fresh escalation, Israel, which has spared no effort to frustrate the peace process, aims to achieve two objectives. First, it aims to cripple the peace process and torpedo the fresh U.S. efforts aimed at making progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations. Second, Israel aims to deal a blow to national accord in Lebanon and to return the situation there to square one in order to promote its objective of sabotaging stability, peace, and national unity in Lebanon.

The paper goes on to say: It is obvious that whenever it sought to evade the requirements of peace, Israel resorted to military escalation, which coincided with all rounds of peace talks and all missions of U.S. envoys to the region. The fresh escalation is part of Israeli pressures on Syria and Lebanon. It is aimed at thwarting the fresh efforts the United States is planning to make in the region.

AL-THAWRAH believes that this fresh military escalation is an Israeli act of vengeance targeting Syria and Lebanon for their rejection of partial solutions that promote Israel's version of peace, which aims to consecrate its occupation of Arab territories.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying that the prospect of achieving real peace is jeopardized by the endless Israeli efforts to prevent it from seeing the light of day, Israel's determination to perpetuate its occupation of Arab territories, and its refusal to subscribe to the terms of reference of the peace process. Hence, the cosponsors of the peace process are required to salvage the peace process from these aggressive Israeli acts before it is too late.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: The Israeli rulers will be gravely mistaken if they believe that they can use the policy of aggression and attacks on unarmed civilians in the southern Lebanese villages and towns, the burning of farmlands, and the demolition of houses over people's heads to force their own conditions and dictates away from the terms of reference agreed on for the Madrid conference. They will be nursing delusions if they believe that by terrorism and military escalation, which have remained the order of the day since the launch of the peace process, they can achieve anything or bring the Israelis security or stability, overshadow others' rights, and obscure the relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The requirements of peace demand an end to silence as well as an effort to curb Israeli attacks. The premise that security and peace are unachievable unless the occupation is dismantled, unless Israel effects complete and total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including southern Lebanon, and unless the relevant international resolutions are implemented is not negotiatiable. Sooner or later, Israel must subscribe to this premise.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Urges Multiparty Meeting To Achieve Peace

LD1910195195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We will not allow the enemies of Islam to install in Afghanistan a puppet regime [words indistinct]. Our ancestors' spirits in heaven will not rest in peace until the people of Afghanistan expel the last remnants of the alien mercenaries from their country.

This point was stated at a consultative meeting with judges, prosecutors, and scholars by esteemed Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA]. The meeting was held in the Delkosha Palace of the presidency.

The president said: The state's leadership will never insist on retaining power. We want peace and fraternity. We believe that a national peace should be restored and the blood of the martyrs should not be wasted. Necessary decisions should be taken regarding the important national issues and problems in accordance with the will and wish of the nation.

In another part of his speech the president said: We ask all groups and parties to hold a meeting in a place within the country to find a solution to the country's difficulties. Our country should not be allowed to remain any longer under the pressure of the imposed war and under the pressure of foreign intervention. I support the proposal to set up a commission consisting of Ulema [religious scholars] and experts who would work for the restoration of peace.

President Rabbani also said: I express my appreciation of those regional countries who have chosen a positive and sound stance regarding the prevention of fighting in Afghanistan. We want to have good relations and friendly ties with the nation and people of Pakistan. However, the Pakistani authorities have chosen a hostile stance vis-a-vis the people and the ISA, contrary to the wish of Pakistan's people. This stance will have dangerous consequences on regional peace. I ask them not to further fan the fire of fighting and bloodshed in our country. We have on many occasions asked the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference to work for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, I must mention that the Islamic and neighboring countries have not accomplished their duties regarding the issues in Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Taleban Denies Accord With Coordination Council

LD1910114695 Tehran IRNA in English 1128 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct. 19, IRNA — Afghanistan's taleban militia has denied any agreement with supreme coordination council on the joint attack on kabul and on the future of afghan government.

Taleban spokesman, Maulavi Faqir Ahmad, talking to IRNA in Peshawar Thursday [19 October] said that "Taleban has not discussed the joint attack plan with any group and all reports of a such an attack on Kabul had no ground".

Taleban and Supreme Coordination Council representatives are holding talks in Jalalabad and Peshawar, in this regard.

Some Pakistani and foreign media have reported that both sides have agreed to set up a joint military committee to review the situation and chalk out joint strategy to attack Kabul.

Both sides also, reportedly agreed on the shape of future government in Afghanistan.

The spokesman said, "Supreme leadership of Taleban has rejected all reports of holding talks with the Supreme Coordination Council of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan" .

Dollar Exchange Rate Falls in Kabul Money Market

LD1710193595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] With the passage of every day, Taleban's links with foreigners are being further revealed. A BAKHTAR correspondents reports that contrary to past experience, the dollar's exchange rate has fallen against the Afghan currency after the recent attack by the so-called Taleban group on Kabul. In the currency market, the new dollar bank note, printed in 1993 and 1994, appeared. [Words indistinct] The main reason for the fall of dollar's exchange rate in Kabul is the flow of dollars through the so-called Taleban. A large quantity of dollars has been found in the possession of a Taleban taken prisoner by the Islamic army, as well as on the dead bodies of their fallen comrades. According to reports originating from Pakistan's ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence], a quantity of freshly printed dollars have been given to the Taleban group that have not yet been seen in Pakistan's money markets. Pakistan is preventing the arrival of U.S. dollars because the arrival of a large quantity of dollars will reduce Pakistani rupee's value.

Similarly, during the recent fighting a number of the Taleban's 1995 model Datsun have been captured by the Islamic army forces. [Words indistinct] It has been reported previously that Pakistan's ISI has bought 1,500 Datsuns and have made them available to the mercenary Taleban. Some of the vehicles have been captured by the mojahedin.

India

Article Views Minister's Stand on U.S. Ties

BK1910084095 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Oct 95 p 16

[Article by M.D.Nalapat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] WHEN Mr Pranab Mukherjee formed a party of his own after being cold-shouldered by Rajiv Gandhi in the mid-1980s, it was clear that he was an optimist. That quality was again in evidence on the eve of his departure to New York for the U.N. General Assembly meeting, when the external affairs minister said that the passing of the Hank Brown amendment "would not affect" Indo-U.S. relations. Clearly, Mr Mukherjee does not believe public opinion to be a factor in relations between democracies.

Had Josef Stalin been alive today, he would have felt at home in the MEA [Ministry of External Affairs] and its U.S. counterpart. Major negotiations and shifts in position (the latter almost entirely on the Indian side) are conducted in closed door sessions. If it were not for the fact that Stalinist secrecy is hard to maintain in the freewheeling culture of Washington, Indians may never have got to learn of the policy positions taken by their own government. It is from the U.S. side, for instance, that we first learnt about the stopping of research on Agni and the slowing down of the development of Prithvi.

Major Frictions

It is worth remembering that several senators who voted in favour of the Brown amendment did so because, on the basis of their talks with officials in New Delhi, they got the impression that passing the amendment would not create major frictions in Indo-U.S. relations. Had the MEA been as feisty as the Indian embassy in Washington in putting forward India's case, at least a few lawmakers may have voted against the passage of the amendment rather than for it. For the past four years, however, the MEA policy has been to avoid "provoking" the United States. Thus, even on matters where vital Indian interests are concerned. the reaction from New Delhi is hesitant and mild. Despite the rhetoric of being an Asian tiger, this country has lately been behaving like a domestic cat.

According to policy makers in Delhi, diplomacy has had to play subservient role to economic policy if "sources close to the Prime Minister" are to be believed, this kowtowing to U.S. sensibilities is on the advice of the finance ministry which claims that concessional assistance and other material goodies will flow only if Washington is propitiated thanks to such advice — embrace with enthusiasm by the Prime Minister's Office — over the past four years there has been a stream of unilateral concessions to the developed world. If any extra benefit has accrued to India from such a policy, this has not so far been made public. On the contrary, whether on security issues such as Agni, Prithvi and Kashmir or on trade matters, U.S.-led pressure for fresh concessions has never eased.

For an economy of its size, India must be the only country where the government routinely puts foreign interests above national ones. Whether it is in permitting MNCs [Multinational Corporations] to increase their stakes in once neglected subsidiaries cheaply, or in handing over effective control to the foreign partner (as took place with Maruti in 1993) or in the financial institutions tacitly helping an MNC to retire an inconvenient chairman (the ITC case), those in charge of economic policy have functioned as though their actions were not dictated by the citizens of this country but the interests of the multinationals. When economic policy is decided by those with dollar pensions — and who are hoping for future dollar salaries — is it any wonder that local interests get neglected?

The obsession with secrecy prevalent in South Block has prevented it from getting a feedback from outside its ranks on the efficacy of its policies. Consequently, it has been unable to make the gestures that would have generated public enthusiasm for its policies. Had workers been offered discounted shares in PSUs, or major cuts made in direct tax rates, or the food policy geared to the interests of the small cultivator and the consumer rather than the big landlord, today's political landscape would have been dominated by Mr Narasimha Rao's party. The lack of a public dimension in the framing of economic policy is only one of the fault lines running through the present governmental structure.

Face Value

Another is the inability to recognise that when the Clinton administration says that it wants to pursue an "even-handed" policy as between India and Pakistan, it should be taken at face value. The direction of present American policy towards the subcontinent is to wipe out the tactical and strategic advantages that India has over Pakistan and ensure parity between the two. This can only be done if Indian technological advances and defence procurement are checked, while Pakistan's are not. Hence the not-so-hidden pressure or the Russians to slow down or stop critical supplies to India despite the rupee-ruble deal. This also explains the open (and till now successful) efforts to destroy Indian technological advances in the nuclear, missile and other sectors. Another five years of this kind of policy and India will be a sitting duck even for a convention a attack by Pakistan.

One of the many admirable features in the U.S. system of government is the power of the legislature to order enquiries on matters of concern. A future Parliament will need to investigate why critical technologies were allowed to be aborted at a time when Pakistan was "upping the ante" through subversion. It will need to investigate how proposals for the purchase of cheap frigates from the U.K. or tanks from Russia were scuttled. It will need to find out why so much official prominence has been given to a group of failed Kashmiri politicians with open links to Islamabad, the Hurriyat. Or why a Congress chief minister in a north-eastern state is being allowed to openly promote subversion. Or why a "god man" who would be a security risk in any part of the world is allowed regular access to the Prime Minister even to the extent of taking his car up to the doorstep of the official residence.

Trade Incentives

Borrowing a leaf from George Kennan's essay, India needs to surround its major security threat, Pakistan, with a ring of alliances forged on political and economic grounds. Rather than just waste time on the Bhutto fan club in Washington, New Delhi needs to focus on giving trade incentives to its neighbours. Specifically, Kabul should be helped to ensure that Afghanistan does not become a client state of Islamabad. Trade ties need to be developed with Iran and the Central Asian republics. Despite the Kozyrevs, the Russian Government is slowly emerging out of its subservience to the West, and contacts with Moscow—and Beijing—need to be regarded as being more crucial than the postures of the self-declared "sole superpower". If Mr Mahathir Mohammed is not adopting the Indian habit of merging fiery rhetoric with capitulation, he should welcome India's entry into ASEAN despite opposition from influential quarters.

Clearly, a favoured model for present-day Indian policy-makers is the "hero" of Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel. While this may please some NRI [Nonresident Indian] businessmen and "god men" and their international patrons, it runs the risk of repeating 1962, this time with Pakistan. Had the leadership of this country shown the same resolve in deterring Islamabad from its subversion as it has demonstrated against the likes of Mr Arjun Singh, Mr N.D. Tiwari and Mr Rangarajan Kumaramangalam, India would not now have been reduced to its present cringing status. The undertakers of Indian science are actively lobbying for the replacement of the Abdul Kalams with some of their own people. Why bother about forming a new East India Company when Raisina Hill itself is doing the job so thoroughly ?

Article Views Western Pressures on Nation

BK1810062795 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Oct 95 p 8

[Article by J.N. Dixit]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE last six weeks have seen a series of decisions, demarches, political and economic evaluations emanating from Western countries and West-dominated agencies about India, which should be a matter of concern to us. The Halifax summit of the G-7, (technically speaking G-8 with Russia), said: "We are concerned about the potential of conflict in Kashmir and urge all parties to pursue a peaceful settlement ...To help lower the tension and build confidence in the sub-continent as well as to strengthen the framework of global security, we urge India and Pakistan to support international arms control norms, accede to the NPT, and refrain from taking further steps towards ballistic missile deployment or any other measures that might precipitate a regional arms race."

The Canadian High Commissioner, representing the government chairing the Group of 8, converted the above message, or shall we call it admonition, into an aide-memoire and passed it on to the MEA [Ministry of External Affairs] after a formal verbal advocacy on the same lines. There has been no detailed response to this tutorial delivered to India, from the Government of India so far. Immediately following this, there have been reports that other members of the G-7 have been asked to make a similar approach to the Government of India through their Heads of Mission.

Before this exercise in coercive public relations with India, the U.S. Government officially endorsed the Brown amendment restoring military supplies to Pakistan. When queries were raised by the press in Washington about how this decision squares with the policy objective of preventing an arms race in the subcontinent, stipulated in the last sentence of the G-7 policy statement, the response of the official U.S. spokesman was that the restoration of arms supplies to Pakistan is up to genuinely required levels. He then delivered himself of "a magisterial statement" saying that this should not lead to any arms race and there is no justification for India to get upset about it.

The U.S. Government's pressure on India not to develop its nuclear technological capacities further or to enhance its space exploration or missile capacities is well known. Repeated suggestions that India should not deploy the Prithvi, not carry out further tests on the Agni, are also public knowledge. What is interesting are the additional measures being taken to generate pressure in support of these objectives and the more aggressive and threatening tone which non-governmental articulators of the Western view have been adopting towards India.

There were a series of discussions organised by the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi on disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control matters in September. There are reliable reports that in one of the concluding sessions, academics from the U.S. after listening to concerns and views expressed by Indian academics and non-governmental experts had the temerity to tell them that the firm expression of Indian interests and needs only shows that "India as yet does not know the pain of punishment" .

The latest information is that the U.S. will be restricting the export of higher categories of super-computers to countries in West, Central and South Asia, to the Russian Federation, and to a number of developing countries which are characterised as "C" category countries. The main criterion for this categorisation is that these countries are tension and conflict prone, and that their governments can use these higher category computers for enhancing their respective military capacities. Reports are that computers capable of more than five to seven thousand (MTOPS) (million theoretical operations per second) will not be allowed to be exported to India and other countries falling in this category without a number of procedural restrictions, additional safeguards and a priori commitments on the part of the importing countries which would be subject to verification.

Initial reports are that computers beyond the 7,000 or 10,000 MTOPS will just not be allowed to be exported. In fact, our computer technology capacities are of the level where lower category of computers up to 5,000 MTOPS are perhaps not required by India. India's own "Param" super computer has been developed to neutralise the restrictions placed on us earlier by the U.S. when it stalled the sale of advanced Cray super computers to India between 1990 and 1992. So if there is to be any substantive and meaningful Indo-U.S. cooperation in the field of computer technology, it has to be in the sphere of the higher categories of computers categories about which the U.S. is suffering from the "dual use technology paranoia syndrome" . A senior official of the American Electronics Association, Mr Greg Garcia, has acknowledged that the U.S.' s new policies regarding computer exports will not be of much relevance to the Indian market.

The conclusion of the Uruguay round of negotiations and the creation of new international trading arrangements under the WTO were supposed to create a just international economic order which would abjure discrimination and ensure genuine free trade the deciding factors being quality of goods, productivity competitiveness, and lack of discrimination. Reports are that the U.S. would not only be imposing restrictions on the export of various categories of dual American technologies to India, but that it will persuade other industrially-advanced countries like Germany and Japan also to follow similar restrictive policies towards India.

Simultaneously, we have a report issued by a World Bank study group titled "Bureaucrats in business—economics and politics of Government ownership", which states that India has been dragging its feet in disinvesting public sector Units or reforming them. The report says that this lack of performance by India is hindering economic growth and making it harder for the people to escape poverty. Then, there is a warning which also amounts to a recommendation to the World Bank. The report states "Financial assistance to unprepared countries may make it easier for interests that oppose economic reforms to sustain the status quo."

In other words, most countries which do not fall in line not only with the reforms suggested by the World Bank-IMF, but which do not conform to the time frame within which these reforms have to be carried out could face the prospect of declining assistance and financial inputs from international financial agencies. The report is acerbic about the alleged failures of India and other similar countries. It says: "The so-called decade of disinvestment has produced more hot air than hot prospects." All this while our Finance Minister has been talking about India moving towards full convertibility, advancing increasingly to free market economy arrangements.

There have been additional signals about the U.S. being supportive of Pakistan's argument that a settlement of the Kashmir issue merits external involvement. Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Assef Ali's statement after his return from the UN General Assembly session that bilateralism cannot work in resolving the Kashmir problem and that his view has the endorsement of his Western interlocutors should be noted. We also have one or two influential U.S. Senators like Specter confusing issues by generally spreading the wrong impression that Prime Minister Rao is agreeable to follow the U.S.'s suggestions on sub-regional non-proliferation. We must note that these pressures are being generated just before elections are due in India. Their destabilising effects on our polity have to be guarded against and neutralised by us. This does not mean a confrontation with the U.S., relations with which are important from every point of view. The point is to fashion this relationship taking into account interests which motivate U.S. policies, without illusions.

Commentary Cites Pakistan's Afghan 'Interference'

BK1610114695 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Commentary by Samuel Bates]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan's fresh efforts to overthrow President Borhanoddin Rabbani's government in Kabul with the instrumentality of Taleban have caused deep concern in India. A spokesman of the Government of India last week condemned Pakistan's continued interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and appealed to other countries to use their influence to promote stability and conciliation in the strife-torn country. As India has correctly observed, what Afghanistan needs the most today is peace and stability and not internecine warfare of which it has already seen enough. But unfortunately, its very important neighbor Pakistan has right from its creation in 1947 been following domestic and foreign policies which are based on negative approach. Peace in Afghanistan, as peace in Kashmir, runs counter to this country's objectives. What are these objectives? There is a 48-year long history of conflicts between these two countries, which can give the answer to this question.

Afghanistan has never accepted the Durand Line, which the British drew between India and that country. Kabul rejects this line on the argument that many Pakhtoon areas have been shown in the area which now constitutes Pakistan. This line has been the main bone of contention between the two countries ever since the creation of Pakistan. During the Afghan war and after, Pakistan tried its best to persuade the Afghan mojahedin leaders, who were enjoying Pakistan's hospitality, to accept Durand Line for peace and fraternity between the two countries, but they refused saying Islam does not recognize boundaries. The problem before Pakistan is that unless Afghan leaders recognize the Durand Line, it can always have Pakhtoon movements in Balochistan and the Northwest Frontier Province, that is in areas which belonged to Afghanistan before the Durand Line came into being. Pakistan can keep the trouble off its toes only in two ways. Feed fraternal strife in Pakistan so that Pakhtoons inside the Pakistani territory are not inspired by their brethren across the Durand Line, or keep Kabul under its effective control.

After the breakup of the Soviet Union, control on all or some parts of Pakistan has become an economic necessity. Pakistan wants safe passage through Afghanistan to Central Asian States for its goods. Last year Taleban — a well-organized force of Islamic students — were used to ensure the safety. Now Taleban are being used to try to topple the Rabbani government in Kabul. Besides arming and supporting Taleban, with its own military experts and officers, Pakistan has tried to give their anti-Rabbani operations some respectability by declaring that it does not recognize the Rabbani government because it has over lived its tenure. Pakistan's intentions toward Afghanistan were revealed in somewhat comical statement of then Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in 1973. Mr. Bhutto was saying Afghanistan must not forget that we once ruled that country. By we, he explained, he meant Raja Ranjit Singh, whose dominion extended to Kabul. Mr. Bhutto also threatened to hoist his country's flag in Kabul. In New Delhi, the parliament, which was in session then, took a very serious note of this threat. Members warned Pakistani leaders to desist from any such adventurist move against India's friend.

During the Afghan war of 1980's, Pakistan had enough time, means, and support to chalk out its future strategies in Afghanistan and Kashmir because the whole war was being fought by the United States and its supporting countries, including Israel and many Muslim states. Then President General Ziaul Haq and his military colleagues were busy formulating parameters of future relationship with Afghanistan. They were arming and supporting fundamentalists like Golboddin Hekmatyar in the hope that in the post-war Afghanistan, a fundamentalist government dependent on Pakistan could be set up. Thus, Pakistan in the name of Islamic ties and fraternity could wield control over Afghanistan. General Zia died in a plane crash and the United states lost interest in Afghanistan, but Pakistan is still pursuing its policy to have control over Kabul.

Pakistan's Bhutto Preferred Over Islamic Government

BK2010090895 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 17 Oct 95 p 14

[Editorial: "Plot of Green"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The military coup has a long and distinguished history in Pakistani politics. What makes the takeover that was reportedly attempted last month unique is its failure. Unlike past instances when the baton has seized the sceptre, this coup did not have the support of the uniformed establishment. The major general who masterminded the affair, Mr

Zaheer ul Islam Abbasi, seems to have led a maverick group within the army. Military coups in Pakistan have in the past always been carried out by someone at the top of the command chain—the commander in chief or the chief of army staff. The coup attempt renews suspicions about the fragility of Pakistan's polity and the longevity of the Benazir Bhutto government. Nonetheless, if reports on the Islamic agenda of Mr Abbasi and his colleagues are true, India should be relieved the coup was nipped in the bud. New Delhi may have been close to facing the stuff of its worst nightmares—an Islamic fundamentalist military ruled Pakistan. Ms Benazir Bhutto has hardly endeared herself to India. But she would be sweetness and light compared to a regime merging the two most anti-Indian and authoritarian players in Pakistani politics—the general and the mullah.

Ever since Zia ul Haq used militarism and Islam to consolidate and legitimise his regime in the Seventies, it was only a matter of time before another contender would come up with a similar recipe. Islamic fundamentalists in Pakistan have long chafed at what they felt was the cosmetic nature of official "Islamicisation". They have also grated at their inability to persuade the majority of Pakistanis about the pleasures of theocracy—Islamic parties fare poorly in every election. A coup would be a logical means to seize power without bothering to win hearts and minds. Fundamentalists have been encouraged by the continuing failure of the Pakistani political leadership to deliver social justice or provide Pakistan with a sense of legitimate nationalism. It is a failure echoed, though less destructively, here in India. Definitely there is no love lost between Islamic radicals and Ms Bhutto. Parties like the Jammat-i-Islami have long been hotbeds of anti-Bhutto sentiment. The prime minister's past response has been a policy of appeasement- most evident in her reluctance to rescind the Shariat based diktats of Haq. If the coupsters are purged root and branch she will hopefully be prepared to roll back rather than merely contain religious politics in Pakistan.

There is little in all of this for India to do other than observe and ponder. In recent times Pakistan's political establishment has been rent with divisions and conflict on an alarming scale. Though this elite cultivated the image of India as a "great Satan" for its own purposes it nonetheless ensured a degree of stability. The new forces arising in Pakistan seem to be more anarchic than political. That the army, which for all Haq's talk of Islamicisation is arguably the most secular establishment in Pakistan, should harbour a fundamentalist serpent in its officer corps is a sign that even this monolith has cracks under its khaki facade.

Finally, India must be prepared for Ms Bhutto to use the coup to increase her leverage with the United States. If nothing else, the coup is an excellent way to buttress her claim Washington can find no better buffer against militant Islam than Pakistan.

ISI Plan To Plant Bombs in 2 States Uncovered

BK2010074095 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 18 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Punjab police arrested an ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] agent, Akbar Ali, along with three Indian smugglers near Amritsar last week. The state police chief, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, told newsmen in Chandigarh today that the ISI was planning to use the smugglers to smuggle sophisticated weapons into India. Interrogation of the arrested persons reveal that the ISI had designs to plant bombs in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, particularly on the occasion of the solar eclipse and during the festival season.

Daily Says Government Should 'Out Wait' Al-Faran

BK1710051295 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 16 Oct 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Al-Faran's Dilemma"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr John Childs, the American who got away from the clutches of Al-Faran, which is in the business of kidnapping foreign tourists in the Kashmir Valley, did not make an educated guess when he told the University of Hartford's World Affairs Council, "I felt certain they (Al-Faran) were getting their orders from Pakistan." Mr Childs is in a minority of Americans who see Pakistan as being sponsors of terrorism which is unfortunate. When he got away to tell the tale to American authorities, they were either not listening carefully or carefully chose to ignore Mr Child's testimony. New Delhi has grounds to believe that the latter is closer to the truth. The hostage crisis has gone on, like a long-running film, for a hundred days. We have previously held in these columns that the longer the Al-Faran holds on to the hostages, the clearer it will become that it is remote-controlled from Islamabad by Ms Benazir Bhutto whose energies are equally divided between Karachi, where she is indulging in an unconventional exercise in population control limited to the Mohajirs, and Kashmir which is the operative word in every sentence that she ever utters both publicly and privately. While it is understandable if some wonder if this stems from a speech defect of sorts, it is clear that she has got the Americans by, among other things, their ears. Which explains why the Americans are going out of their way to channel their state of the art arms and a munitions to Pakistan in brazen disregard of overwhelming evidence of Pakistan's meddlesome ways, among other places, in the Valley.

The American foreign policy system works a bit in the way the O J Simpson jury did. The mutual admiration between America and Pakistan at the official level excludes the possibility of Pakistan being found guilty despite the body of evidence that would automatically tend to confirm the guilt. Here also there is a willingness to suspend disbelief. Luckily for India, the Al-Faran still has custody of two British, one American, and one German. The way forward would be to take advantage of the situation and explain to all the parties concerned how best to counter the situation. The most obvious way would be to get the Americans to bring pressure on Ms Bhutto. So far, this has not been possible either because Americans are not willing or are not able. The former would be hypocritical, and the latter would only confirm that Pakistan is beyond the reach of the State Department and Pentagon spin doctors, which has its own implications.

Whatever the reason, this is one crisis that India can afford to out wait the Al-Faran. For one, the onset of winter in the Valley would sooner rather than later force Al-Faran's hands. If the hostages are still alive it is because Al-Faran is in a bind: Pakistan cannot handle the adverse implications of the hostages dying at the hands of Al-Faran, just as it cannot afford to let the hostages free to talk like Mr John Childs. If the Americans won't listen, the rest of the world will.

Minister Says Time 'Favorable' for Kashmir Polls

BK2010052695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, says efforts are on to arrive at a consensus of all political parties on the draft bill replacing TADA [Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act]. Talking to newsmen in Indore, he said the bill could be introduced in the winter session of parliament.

Answering a query on elections in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Chavan said the government wants to hold early polls and the opposition parties are also of the same opinion. He said the government has fully assessed the prevailing situation in the valley and found that time is favorable for elections.

Nine 'Foreign Mercenaries' Killed in Kashmir

BK2010052995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Army has taken adequate steps to prevent infiltration as well as exfiltration [as heard] in the Kashmir valley. Briefing newsmen in Srinagar, the Corps Commander, Lieutenant General K.S. Dhillon, expressed the hope that the security forces will be able to contain militancy in the state very soon as they have the cooperation of the people who are fed up with militancy.

Meanwhile, nine foreign mercenaries have been killed in three different encounters with the security forces during the last 24 hours. Twenty militants have been arrested and a large quantity of arms and ammunition recovered from them.

Iran

President Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD2010142495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Oct 95

[Report on first and second Friday prayers sermons by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 20 October]

[FBIS Translated Text] The glorifying Friday prayer rites of the Islamic peoples were held in Islamic Iran today by the ever-present- on-the-scene nation. In Tehran masses of people went to Tehran University and surrounding streets and magnificently performed Friday prayers, led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Referring to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's trip to Mazandaran province, the temporary Friday Imam of Tehran said the unified and glorious presence of the people of that province throughout the trip was evidence of national unity and an earnest reaffirmation of the people's allegiance to the supreme jurisconsult and their expression of loyalty to the Islamic Republic system. He added:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] The show of national unity and loyalty by our great nation during the supreme jurisconsult's trip to Mazandaran, demonstrated by the people of Mazandaran — like the people of other provinces during his other trips — was a very beautiful manifestation of the loyalty and love of the people for the system and the supreme jurisconsult. I am surprised that arrogant blowhards and the world's news centers have a news blackout on such gatherings and such endearing scenes which can be seen rarely in the political history of human societies. It has no explanation except spite and enmity. If two people in Iran say something against the system they elaborate on it a great deal, but completely overlook all the signs of love and devotion. [end recording]

He added: The people of other countries, in spite of the silence of arrogant media about the achievements of the Islamic revolution and their negative propaganda against the Islamic revolution, have unbelievably been affected by the message of the revolution and the resistance of the brave people of Iran.

Referring to his ten-day trip to Vietnam, the Philippines, and Bangladesh he said: The welcome given by the people of those countries to the Iranian delegation showed that the people of the world regard Iran as a powerful and independent country and they are familiar with the achievements of the Islamic revolution. The fact has been made clear to them that Iran has become a real power with valuable and lofty cultural messages and industrial capabilities, and could be helpful to them. For that reason they have a great deal of respect for the Islamic revolution and its leadership.

Referring to the signing of agreements with Vietnam, the Philippines, and Bangladesh on the erection of refineries, petrochemical, cement, and tea-processing plants, he said: The industrial atmosphere and the way for investing in Third World countries have opened up for Iranian investors. If we have been exporting raw materials like oil or copper to date, we must now think of exporting services, technical operations, and consultation. He stressed the importance of the cooperation of banks and insurance companies to facilitate investments in other countries.

He said the million-strong demonstrations by black Americans showed the existence of deep sociopolitical crises in the United States. He added: The mass rally by U.S. blacks and their extensive and glorious presence in front of the U.S. Congress amazed international observers. Black Americans, despite extensive propaganda by Western media against Islam, have found the only way to attain their individual and social rights in Islam and its liberating slogans.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin Rafsanjani recording] The highly important point of the rally, which was very bitter to the Americans, was the Islamic aspects of the gathering. The Americans even do not wish to admit that the issue was linked to the general movement of the Islamic world. They do not wish to admit that this culture originated from Iran and other places. It will be very hard for them to admit this fact. They would have attributed the rally to Islam if they wanted to blame the rally with some allegations.

No doubt there were more interesting aspects of the rally, which were not covered and were not reported. This is because the film crews, who covered proceedings of the rally for broadcasting, were not Muslims. The film crews and their broadcasting organizations are not controlled by Muslims. They broadcast the minimum, for if they had not mentioned anything about the rally at all, they would have raised suspicion and questions would have been asked. What you saw was the minimum. Nevertheless you saw the repeated cry: God is the greatest. You saw the participants at the rally hold congregational prayers and recite the Koran. All these took place in a rally which was not supposed to have any religious tint at all. Well, the events demonstrated the most natural manifestation of the rally. This was a highly significant event.

In my opinion the chants, God is the greatest, there created the same reaction among these arrogant Americans, that Bilal's voice created among the idol worshipers of the early Islamic era. These arrogant individuals in the United States are extremely angry with the voice of the rally, which was broadcast as we saw it. This is a very important sign of the world's awakening. It is a very important sign of the meek's awakening and alertness of the public masses, who are demanding their true rights. These people are not content with the superficial pretenses.

Our people should hear some proper analyses of these events. Such analyses will make you, the people, realize that your efforts, your sacrifices and the hardship you tolerated for the sake of the revolution, have not been wasted. It is not as if the achievements of your martyrs and the affectionate melodies of our devoted and selfless people are going to be trapped inside our country's territory and our geographical boundaries. These are messages, like lovely songs, which will be carried on the wings of angels to reach other people. There are listeners eager to hear these songs. These make some people think. These lead to some developments and decisiontaking. And in fact we are not lonely in this world. If anyone is lonely, it is the arrogant United States. [crowd shouts: "God is the greatest," "Death to America," "Death to hypocrites," "Death to Israel] [end recording]

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in the first prayer sermon, continued the discussion on social justice. He said the issue of environmental protection is important and all people of the world have a share in it. He added that protection of the environment will benefit everyone.

His eminence said that population growth and expansion of world industries are among the factors which contribute to pollution and destruction of the environment. He added: Destruction of the earth's natural resources, destruction of natural forests and air and sea pollution are the same as violating the rights of other people and it is a sin.

The substitute Friday Imam of Tehran asked the scholars and preachers to pay attention to the issue of the environment. He called upon the preachers to inform the public on the pros and cons of saving or destroying the environment. He also suggested that the issue should be raised in social discussions.

On the occasion of the physical education week, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani made some remarks on the importance of keeping a healthy mind and a healthy body through promotion of sports among the public.

Khamene'i Sympathizes With U.S. Demonstrators

LD1910220095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In continuation of his visit to the province of Mazandaran, Grand Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, attended the great gathering of the people of Gorgan City, Wednesday 18 October. In this gathering the leader of the Islamic revolution laid emphasis on the firm determination of the Islamic system and the Iranian nation to win more progress and engage in further construction without depending on aliens.

In another part of his speech, Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the Monday demonstration of the American blacks and stated: In these demonstrations the American blacks clenched their fists and chanted God is great. And this was the message of the holy Koran which was conveyed to the world under the gaze of the imperialist U.S. regime. It must be noted that over 1 million American blacks walked together in a great march, Monday 16 October, to once again demonstrate their unity in the face of the manifestations of social and economic injustice as well as racial discrimination in the United States. According to the BBC, the recent march by the blacks was the greatest of its kind ever, following the black demonstrations in 1963 after the assassination of the black leader, Martin Luther King.

From the point of view of socio-economic experts, the atmosphere ruling the demonstrations proved that the blacks are not yet accepted by the social, economic, cultural, and political regime ruling the United States. The existence of multiplicity in the provision of justice in the United States is still painful and blacks do not enjoy social justice. There was no initiation for this purpose either. The march by over 1 million U.S. blacks was in fact a protest about the inharmonious structure which has continued against the U.S. black community ever since the lifting of slavery up to date. This is the reality that U.S. blacks, because of much existing discrimination in all fields, suffer from lack of social justice in the wide U.S. community.

The American blacks' demonstrations on Monday were a protest against the collapse of family foundations in the U.S. community. Today, the U.S. community suffers from many and increasing social crises. The devaluation of family life, many crimes committed by teenagers and children, racial discrimination, sexual crimes, etc., are just examples of the ethical crisis which is hollowing out the U.S. community from inside. If the U.S. blacks can manage to win a social and political unity, they will then be able to use Islam as an axis and increase their pressures to remove racial discrimination. The removal of the U.S.-style apartheid requires unity of the blacks and the Washington demonstrations were a beginning of this trend.

'Comment' Assails U.S. Efforts for Israeli Economy

LD1910224595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 19 Oct 95

[Unattributed "comment"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign minister of the Zionist regime, Shim'on Peres, has left for Amman, heading a delegation composed of his cabinet. The visit took place Wednesday October 18. During his few-hour long visit to Jordan, Peres met and conferred with the Jordanian Prince, Bin-Talal Hasan. The axis of these talks has been the expansion of mutual trade and business ties. At the same time it is said that the survey of the arrangements and preliminaries of the future Amman Economic Conference has been the main reason why the Zionist regime's foreign minister visited Jordan.

According to political experts, in view of the fact that the Zionist ministers of tourism, industries, trade, and communications accompanied Peres on this visit, it seems that winning economic and trade interests in the region was the target of the Zionist officials. In other words, since the United States, as the major economic supporter of the Zionist regime, is now faced with many financial problems, without a doubt Tel Aviv and the White House's present strategy is based on making use of the region's political and economic possibilities in favor of the Israeli regime. Therefore, in their first step after establishing diplomatic ties with Jordan, the Israeli officials have brought up the issue of economic ties and exchanges.

At present, with the passage of about a year since the conclusion of a compromise agreement between Tel Aviv and Amman, the Zionist traders and merchants have managed to win their desired financial interests. Besides that, under conditions when only 10 days are left until the Middle East-North Africa Development-Economic Conference in Amman, the Israeli regime intends to produce the necessary coordination for the fulfillment of joint economic projects with Jordan as well as other Arab states.

It is clear that at the present juncture Tel Aviv is trying to execute its desired plans which are nothing short of the creation of a new Middle East based on Israel's economic domination. In fact, within the framework of all multilateral talks between the Zionist regime and the Arab states, Washington and Tel Aviv have tried to bring an end to the economic boycott of Israel by the Arab states, in parallel with recognition of Israel in the heart of the Middle East. The fulfillment of such an objective will mean provision of the interests of the United States and Israel in the region.

However, despite all the joint efforts and plots by the United States and the Zionist regime aimed at imposing the Tel Aviv regime on the Middle East both politically and economically, without a doubt popular protest to the Arab countries will be the major obstacle in the way of compromise by the Arab governments.

Commentary Describes U.S. Embargo as 'Redundant'

*NC1910222895 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
14 Oct 95 p 16*

[Commentary by Khalil Esfandiari: "The United States Admits..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a session of the U.S. Senate's banking committee some officials admitted frankly, while others conceded tacitly, that their country's efforts to impose an embargo against Islamic Iran had been defeated.

At this session, the lack of support by the Western allied countries was admitted, and it was proposed that the countries which had entered into dealings with Iran should be boycotted. Most interesting are the remarks of the CIA's deputy chief of information [as published] who has in the course of his utterances implied that the blind ploy against the Islamic Republic of Iran has been futile.

He stated: Iran has numerous tactics to gain a market for its foreign transactions and there has been minimal international support for the U.S. embargo against Iran. The U.S. officials' admitting to the failure of their ploy is in fact tantamount to acknowledging two important and basic realities:

1. Confession of the fact that the era of belligerence and muscle flexing by the United States and its stomping roughshod on political and economic issues in the international arena has ended. Even its allies of yesterday have acquired enough political acumen to pursue their own interests and not the attainment of U.S. wishes.

2. Recognition of the international clout and prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which was able—by utilizing its greatness and resources—to rob the archsatan of its slumber.

The reality is that articulating threats and imposing economic embargoes against a country such as the Islamic Republic of Iran with its surfeit of capabilities, its rich and innovative experiences, creative management, and its popular will in the attainment of independence and self-sufficiency are redundant tactics.

Today the Islamic Republic of Iran has, with the blessings of the years of its economic construction and reconstruction, metamorphosed into a vast market for international cooperation which is needed by the world. This is a reality that has infuriated and displeased the Americans.

Daily Views Economic Dealings With Azerbaijan

*NC1910193495 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
15 Oct 95 p 16*

[Commentary by Hasan Qorbani: "Tehran-Baku Cooperation in Oil Demands Sincerity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hardly a few months have elapsed since Iran was cast from the Azerbaijan oil consortium for the exploration and utilization of oil resources from the Caspian Sea and Baku has now asked Iran to participate in another oil project.

This invitation is an indication of the Islamic Republic of Iran's ability to play a role in regional and international equations. However, it is worth pondering this request by Baku. The feeble and obsequious performance of the Republic of Azerbaijan before the United States with regard to Iran's role as a sincere neighbor in the Azerbaijan oil consortium has not been forgotten.

Baku succumbed to Washington's pressure and the outcome was that Iran was deprived of the opportunity to participate in the oil project. Consequently, Baku's goodwill in regional and international dealings has become somewhat dubious. On this basis, Azerbaijan's latest request for Iran's participation in a plan, in which Azerbaijan's share is merely 40 percent and the remainder is owned by Norwegian companies and Turkey, should not be responded to without caution.

Iran has repeatedly affirmed its sincerity regarding Azerbaijan's independence. However, Aliyev's government has displayed a very unjust reaction to this sincere behavior. In view of the weakness of the present Baku government in regional matters and the effete nature of its performance, the officials of our petroleum and foreign ministries should approach the issue of Azerbaijan's latest request with open eyes, so that the people may not be dragged into the same pit once again.

Bodies of Iraqi Soldiers Killed in War Returned

LD1710191995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1730 GMT 17 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The pure bodies of 15 martyrs of the imposed war [Iran-Iraq war 1980-1988] today were handed over to our country's border officials at Khosravi [Kermanshah Province] border point [between Qasri Shirin in Iran and Khanaqin in Iraq] during a ceremony. [video shows the bodies carried on shoulders of soldiers]

Mr. Baqerzadeh, in charge of searching committee of the general command headquarters of the armed forces, announced that the search and investigation work to find the bodies of those killed during the war was continuing in all operational axes [as heard] and border regions inside the two countries.

The bodies of 61 Iraqi soldiers today were also handed over to the border officials of that country [Iraq].

Publications Report on Gubernatorial Appointments

NC1710163895

[FBIS Editorial Report] Several Iranian publications—JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, ABRAR, SALAM, HAMSHAHRI, ETTELA'AT, KEYHAN, RESALAT, and TEHRAN TIMES—report in their 8 October editions on the appointments of some governors. Tehran SALAM in Persian on page 2 carries a report under the headline: "Four More Governors Replaced." The report says: "In separate orders issued by Interior Minister Besharati, Javad Sadeqi was appointed the governor of Darreh-ye Shahr (Ilam), 'Ali Akbar Nasiri was appointed the governor of Varamin, Gholamreza 'Atufi as the governor of Rey, and Esfandiar Gil-Yusefian as the governor of Bandar-e Torkmen. All have assumed their duties."

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian page 14 carries the following report:

"According to the Public Relations Department of the Interior Ministry, Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati has issued separate orders appointing the following governors: Javad Sadeqi as governor of Darreh-ye Shahr (Ilam), 'Ali Akbar Nasiri as governor of Varamin, Gholamreza 'Atufi as governor of Rey, and Esfandiar Gil- Yusefian as the governor of Bandar-e Torkmen. They assumed their posts."

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian on page 4 carries the following report, attributed to its provincial news service:

"The Tehran governor general has introduced the new governor of Varamin District. At a ceremony on this occasion which was attended by the deputy governor for political and security affairs of Tehran, the Friday imams of Varamin and Gareh Cheqa, the Varamin deputy in the Islamic Majles and the local officials of the governorate, Tehran Governor General Seyyedzadeh expressed his appreciation of the services of the former governor of Varamin and introduced 'Ali Akbar Nasiri as the new governor of this district."

In its front page "News in Brief" column, Tehran ABRAR in Persian reports the following: "On the basis of individual orders by the interior minister, Javad Sadeqi has been appointed governor of Darreh-ye Shahr District (Ilam), 'Ali Akbar Nasiri as governor of Varamin, Gholamreza 'Atufi as governor of Rey, and Esfandiar Gil- Yusefian as governor of Bandar-e Torkmen. All of them have assumed their duties."

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian carries on page 4 the following report, citing IRNA and headlined: "New Governor of Varamin Introduced": "At a meeting attended by Tehran Governor General Seyyedzadeh, Friday imams, members of the Administrative Council, some members of the noble martyrs' families, and the Majles deputy from Varamin, the services of the outgoing governor of Varamin District, Hasan Robati, were praised and the new governor of Varamin was introduced. At this session, Seyyedzadeh urged the new governor of Varamin District to strive and work in accordance with the example of the leader of the revolution by creating an atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood and by heeding the advice of the Varamin Friday imams in serving the martyr-nurturing people and the family members of the 15 Khordad and Varamin martyrs."

HAMSHAHRI, RESALAT, and TEHRAN TIMES do not mention this subject in their 8 October issues.

Khamene'i Hails Glories of Martyrdom, Islam

LD1910200295 Tehran IRNA in English
1837 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 19 (IRNA) — Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said here today that one of the outstanding features of the post-revolution era in Iran was the glories of martyrdom in the way of God and the struggle for the majesty of Islam.

He said the patience of families in the face of martyrdom of their dear ones, was among the highest forms of worship and virtue.

The leader who is on a tour of the Caspian province of Mazandaran was addressing a large gathering which besides the families of martyrs and the local Sunni and Shiite Ulema [religious scholars], included war disabled, former prisoners of war, and veterans of the eight-year Sacred Defence (the 1980-88 Iraqi war).

He called on the youth to learn the holy Koran, acquire knowledge and build morals. Unity and solidarity of the nation would frustrate the designs of enemies, said Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Rafsanjani Addresses Civil Aviation Organization

LD1910205495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaking at a gathering of the Civil Aviation Organization, described Iran's natural and geographical position in the region as excellent for the transit of goods and for air transport. He added that with the implementation of the First Development Plan and its continuation in the Second Development Plan, Iran's conditions have been revolutionized and the country is on the threshold of a new and outstanding stage where the country's air transport industry must develop at the same rate so that it can offer improved services at international and regional levels. [passage omitted]

At the meeting, the head of the Civil Aviation Organization, reporting on the aviation situation, said: Currently, the number of air routes has increased from 19 to 76, cargo transportation volume has increased from 26,000 to 97,000 tonnes, and overflights have increased to 120,000 from 33,000 per annum. He further said that the number of the country's aircraft has increased from 30 to 67, 11.5 million passengers are carried by our airlines every year, and the number of airports has increased by 350 percent.

New Gas Field Said Discovered in Bushehr Province

LD2010110395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Thanks to the efforts of Iran National Oil Company experts, and following fresh digging in Bushehr province, a new large gas field was discovered in the east of Kangan refinery.

About the specifications of the discovered gas field Oil Minister Aqazadeh-Kho'i said to our correspondent]:

[Begin Aqazadeh-Kho'i recording] The field's capacity is about 8 trillion cubic feet. It also contains about 100 million barrels of liquefied gases. If we calculate on the basis of present-day prices, the value of the field, including its liquefied gases, is about 10 billion dollars. It contains sweet gas and could be used in the country without the need for refining. [end recording]

Nation Said Planning To Harness Solar Energy

LD1510192895 Tehran IRNA in English
1920 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA — The power generation and distribution company of Iran announced on Sunday [15 October] its plans to harness solar energy for commercial purpose in the next 25 years. The company said that it has worked out a programme to produce five percent of the country's electricity consumption by solar energy. Preliminary tests on a sample unit have been in this regard at the research center of the power industry, it said.

Majles Postpones Proposal on Merge of Ministries

95LA0003A Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Sep 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Parliamentary Affairs Division—With the ratification of the Majles, the proposal to merge the Ministry of Cooperatives with the Ministry of Commerce was postponed for six months.

In yesterday's session of the Majles, the suggestion of a number of deputies concerning the postponement of this proposal was presented.

Explaining this suggestion, Mr. Mohammad Reza Bahonar, deputy from Tehran, said: Some time ago, a proposal to combine the Ministry of Cooperatives and the Ministry of Commerce was presented to the Majles. The positive side effect of this proposal was that the Ministry of Cooperatives become quite active during this period. In terms of the work that had to be done and also in terms of the services that the Ministry of Cooperatives has done and the work that was necessary to do, they acted somewhat more rapidly. I find it unlikely that the dear colleagues who presented and signed this proposal intended to reduce the importance of the cooperative sector. Unfortunately, in the past two years, proposals and bills have been discussed in the Majles, the government, and the Economic Council which have gradually reduced the Ministry of Cooperatives. One part of the Ministry of Cooperatives was transferred to the Ministry of Construction Jihad; one part went to the Ministry of Agriculture; and even several times the honorable minister himself announced that if this is going to be the situation, it would be better to dissolve the Ministry of Cooperatives. A number of the signatories have been and are of the same opinion that cooperatives, as one of the three economic sectors of the country and a most important one, are the responsibility of all ministries, and all ministries must feel direct responsibility in connection with cooperatives. Also the work of cooperatives must not be left to one ministry, while the work of the private sector and the government is left to 23 ministries. The cooperative sector must certainly be revitalized and remain alive.

He said: We suggest that this proposal be postponed in an independent form for six months and the Administrative and Employment Affairs Committee look at the issue in the context of the larger government organization. It may be better for each ministry to have a deputy minister position for cooperatives. For example, let us say that the cooperatives must be distributed among the entire body of the government. What we propose is to postpone this matter, and as a matter of rule, this proposal will be left to the Fifth Majles. God willing, those in the Fifth Majles will sit and study the matter carefully on the basis of expert discussion.

Mr. 'Ali Movahhedi-Savoji, the deputy from Tehran, said in opposition to postponing it: What Mr. Bahonar said was, in fact, in connection with the necessity of discussing this proposal and for the Majles to make a decision or vote to reject the proposal for merging, in which case the Ministry of Cooperatives will remain, or we should vote to merge it. He said: In connection with the cooperative sector, we have no argument. The Majles and the government should strengthen the cooperative sector, especially with regard to production cooperatives in policy making, plans, and funds. He added: Unfortunately, contrary to what we see, these days the honorable officials strongly support the cooperatives and the cooperative sector, but both the honorable government and the Majles deputies have been competing to chop the Ministry of Cooperatives to pieces. Referring to the separation of such sections as the carpet cooperatives from the Ministry of Cooperatives in the past, he said: The concern of the cooperatives is to create jobs for the young people and the unemployed in the country and to make production thrive and not for the unimportant issues that remain at the end. Hence, this proposal must be discussed in the Majles one more time, and if the honorable deputies support it, they will vote for its general points; if they do not support it, they will reject it and support the Ministry of Cooperatives for the cooperative sector in the country. That is why I oppose the postponement of the proposal, which will not solve anything.

After the statements of Mr. Movahhedi-Savoji, the proposal to postpone the discussion on combining the Ministries of Cooperatives and Commerce was put to a vote and ratified by the majority of deputies.

Minister Explains Increase in Postal Tariffs

95LA0003b Tehran SALAM in Persian 7 Sep 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Parliamentary Affairs Division—In yesterday's session of the Majles, the urgent proposal to attach two notes to the law on the transit of foreign vehicles ratified on 13/04/1373 [4 July 1994] was given final ratification by the deputies. The text of this proposal follows:

Single article. The following notes will be attached as Notes 3 and 4 to the law on the transit of foreign vehicles ratified on 13/04/1373.

Note 3. The National Transportation and Terminals Organization of the country, affiliated with the Ministry of Roads and Transport, is granted permission, through its offices stationed on the international road borders of the country, to devise and collect taxes from foreign vehicles from countries that unilaterally obtain fees or taxes from Iranian vehicles.

Note 4. The funds from the implementation of the law on the regulation of transit of foreign vehicles and national highway taxes that will be collected from the date of ratification of the law by the National Transportation and Terminals Organization will be deposited in the account of the organization in the treasury, and 100 percent of the funds deposited by the organization, in accordance with the annual national budget law, will be spent implementing those laws, maintaining freeways, and participating in building national freeways, transit highways, and also parks and terminals, as well as strengthening and equipping the road transport fleet.

The surplus of the annual revenues of the organization will be regarded as sources of funds and spent on investment expenditures in accordance with the annual budgets.

In this session, the report of the Majles Articles 88 and 90 Committee regarding the question of Messrs Mohammad Baqer Tavakkoli, deputy from Khomeyni; Hoseyn Irani, deputy from Qom; and Ahmad Nejabat, deputy from Shiraz, posed to the minister of post, telegraph, and telephone regarding the reason for the increase in foreign postal tariffs in excess of the legislative ratifications was read. The report states:

The question was discussed in the open session of the Majles on 07/10/1373 [28 December 1994], and because the deputies who had asked were not convinced, in order to implement Article 148 of the internal bylaws of the Majles, it was referred to this committee. After carrying out correspondence and collecting documents and also holding sessions in the presence of the deputies who had posed the question, the honorable minister, and related experts, the committee presents its final report as follows:

The documents and statements of the honorable minister indicate that the rates of foreign postal tariffs have been calculated and set in accordance with the law "ratified by the 19th Congress of International Postal Unions in Hamburg (1984) and permission to submit their ratified documents," which was ratified in the Majles on 20/05/1370 [11 August 1991]. In this connection, the effects of the fluctuations of the foreign currency rate, which plays an essential role in determining the rates on the basis of the ratifications of the Hamburg Congress, are noteworthy.

The honorable Economic Council also, in its ratification No. 34/790 dated 10/06/1372 [1 September 1993], increased the tariffs on the transport of packages and foreign postal packages up to 100 percent. Of course, the general assembly of the shareholders of the Postal Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the basis of the minutes of Session No. 22, dated 21/12/1372 [12 March 1994], has discounted the rate of foreign publications 50 percent compared to the rate of foreign letters cited in this ratification of the Economic Council. Hence, considering all the aspects and noting that it is necessary to implement special and more facilitation by the related authorities regarding the press in order to preserve and promote cultural relations with various nations, the response of the honorable minister is announced to be satisfactory.

In this session, the general points of the proposal on the commitments for funds in Paragraph B of Note 2 of the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] national budget law were ratified by the deputies. The text of the proposal is as follows:

Single article. The Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance is responsible:

1. to provide the funds for the provincial plans and projects allocated to the executive organizations of the Ministries of Agriculture and Construction Jihad cited in Paragraph B of Note 2 of the 1373 national budget law, up to a maximum of 8.2 billion rials [R], from the developmental funds in Line 702101 (unpaid obligations of previous years' budgets), included in Part 4 of the 1374 [21 March 1995-20 March 1996] national budget law, and in order to pay these obligations place them at the disposal of the Ministries of Agriculture and Construction Jihad and organizations affiliated with those ministries in related provinces.
2. to allocate up to a maximum of R900 million rials from funds in Line 702101 of Part 4 of the 1374 national budget law for providing for and paying obligations and also the completion of incomplete projects of developmental projects related to 2 percent of the fees collected from the purchase of green leaf tea from the tea farmers of the country.

In its session of yesterday, the Majles also ratified the bill on establishing the National Blood Processing and Research Organization.

In this session, the bill on the trade agreements between the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Czech Government, and also the Government of the Republic of Poland was ratified.

In this session, the general points of the bill on the International Trade Arbitration Organization and the proposal to amend Paragraph D of Note 3 of the 1373 national budget law were discussed and ratified by the deputies.

In the conclusion of yesterday's session, the letter of more than 120 Majles deputies was read. This letter states: The holding of the Compassion Celebration at the initiative of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, the Ministry of Education, and the Imam Khomeyni Emergency Committee will be a beneficial step, the presence of which indicates the spirit of self-sacrifice and cooperation of the good and self-sacrificing people of the Islamic country, and since the history of such events demonstrates indescribable generosity, it is expected that the revolutionary and committed people of the country, as in the past, on the basis of their beliefs and moral principles, will assist the related officials in this important matter. Hence, we deputies of the people, while praising this charitable effort, will do our share to participate in this God-pleasing action. It is hoped that this beneficial and noble action will be accepted by the Almighty.

Nepal

Report Says Economic Situation 'Not Satisfactory'

BK1710020595 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 13 Oct 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Oct 12 - The government on Thursday [12 October] presented the amended version of the fiscal survey for the year 1994/95 to the House of Representatives.

The ninth session of the Lower House resumed Thursday after a gap of some days following the Dashain holidays. The fiscal survey, which states that the year 1994/95 was not satisfactory from the economic viewpoints, was presented to the House by Minister for Education Govinda Raj Joshi on behalf of the acting Finance Minister Chakra Bastola. Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat is currently out of country attending the joint conference of International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington DC. The reviewed fiscal survey said the countrys fiscal situation remained negative during FY 1994/95 because of decrease in production and export. On the other hand, the import increased and the balance of payment situation deteriorated, it added. The growth in per capita income also plunged dishearteningly, the survey report said. It said the last years growth rate of Rs [rupees] 171 in per capita income might fall. The survey was put before the House Thursday in connection with presenting the budget estimates for the remaining nine months of the financial year 1995/96. His Majesty the King has fixed the time for presenting the budget at 4 pm on Sunday, October 15. The previous budget was announced by minority UML [United Marxist-Leninist] government which lost power against a majority coalition just one month ago.

Finance Minister Presents New Budget to Parliament

BK1710103895 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 16 Oct 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Oct 15 — Finance Minister Dr Ram Sharan Mahat presented the budget for the Fiscal Year 2052-53 [as published] to the joint house of parliament on Sunday [15 October].

Estimated at 51.64 billion rupees, the coalition government's budget records a growth of over 13 percent compared to the previous UML [United Marxist Leninist] budget presented in July.

Rs 22.82 billion has been earmarked as regular expenditure while Rs 28.82 billion is being spent on development. The 2051/52 budget earmarked almost identical amounts, over 19 billion rupees each, as development and regular expenditures alike.

Over 31 billion rupees, 61 percent of the budget, comes from revenues, while foreign aid provides 5.55 billion rupees. Of the deficit of 14.48 billion rupees, foreign loans provide 12.28 billion rupees while internal borrowings meet 2.20 billion rupees.

The new budget estimates a 6.2 percent GDP growth. During the fiscal year 2051-52 the revenues made up 11.7 percent of the GDP, which is expected to grow to 13.2 percent.

The deficit is estimated at 6 percent of the GDP and the total domestic loan mobilization at 0.9 percent, while the net loan mobilization will stand at 0.5 percent.

Since the government borrowing from the banking sector is nil, the private sector will have a good cash flow, resulting in a controlled money supply and inflation, the new budget stresses.

The money supply will flow by 12 percent while there will be a seven percent inflation by the end of the fiscal year. The budget hopes that the reform policies will have positive impact on economic indicators.

Minister Says Nation To Develop as Financial Center

BK1710104595 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 17 Oct 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Oct 16 — Highlighting the focus of the budget presented Sunday [15 October], Finance Minister Ram Sharan Mahat said the philosophy behind the new budget is to lessen the government role in the urban area and concentrate more on villages. In a press meet held today, Mahat said the country had adopted a two-pronged budget.

The urban sector will pursue liberalization policy for fiscal stability and greater productivity, while the rich harvest of the liberalized economy will be inverted to the rural sector, said Mahat.

We have inherited the budget in disarray from the UML [United Marxist Leninist] government and the coalition was determined to put the economy back in track, he said.

When the UML government took office the revenue had gone up by 31 percent, while the coalition has been handed over at a period when the revenue had grown by 11 percent, said the Finance Minister.

The NC [Nepali Congress] government then had the foreign exchange reserve of 35 billion rupees while their amount has now dipped to 30 billion rupees, he said.

In a significant policy announcement Mahat said Nepal will be developed as international financial centre. Preparations will begin this fiscal year for suitable legal provisions, he said, adding Nepal had the best telecom facilities in South Asia and a number of geographical advantages to attract investors leaving Hong Kong.

A tourism promotion fund will be set up at the participation of the private sector and the private airlines will be encouraged through legal provisions, he said. The Empowering the Village programme will not only funnel funds to villages but will also give them due rights, he said.

Opposition Leader on Conditions To Back Coalition

BK1610084795 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 13 Oct 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KATHMANDU, Oct 12 (RSS)—CPN-UML [Communist Party of Nepal—United Marxist-Leninist] Chairman and Leader of the Main Opposition in the House of Representatives Manmohan Adhikari has said that even a slightest deviation from the constitutional course will, despite possible immediate gains for the particular party, eventually harm all those who are committed to democracy.

Adhikari has said this in a letter sent by him from the TU Teaching Hospital, Maharajganj to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The letter was read out at the house meeting today by Chief Whip of the main opposition party in the house Devi Prasad Ojha after taking special time for it from the speaker.

Stating that the present multi-party system was the result of the joint struggle by the Nepalese leftist and democratic forces, Adhikari has said it is our joint responsibility to strengthen this system, to safeguard the spirit of the present constitution and to further widen the democratic way.

Though ruling and opposition parties have their separate roles and responsibilities in a democracy the ruling one must be more tolerant and responsible, he said, adding, as the role of the ruling party is more responsible and important in the management of the state the speaker has to carry out important and decisive role in the management of the parliament.

Expressing great shock at the news of some unwanted events that took place inside the parliament some times back, Adhikari said the dignity of neither the government nor the parliament nor the constitution will be maintained under situations that make the MPs feel that they are insecure inside the house or that their privilages are being undermined or that the dignity of the house itself is being not maintained. Therefore, lets all work together to maintain the dignity of the house, to preserve the privileges of the house and to uplift the dignity and respect of the house further up, he has added in the letter.

Change in the government is a normal phenomenon in a multi-party system, but the subsequent government should provide continuity to the good and public welfare policies, plans and programmes initiated by the previous government, he said, adding, a poor country like ours cannot face continued uncertainties as repeated changes in the policies, plans and programmes might cause not only uncertanities but even frustration.

If the present coalition government continues further the public welfare plans initiated when we were in the government, uplifts the dignity of the country and the countrymen and strengthens the nationality and democracy we will not hesitate to support it, he has further said.

Adhikari also stated in the letter that despite his wish to take part in the proceedings of the house that resumed today after a few days adjournment he could do so because of the advice from physicians treating him to stay in the hospital for some more days undergoing treatment.

Pakistan

Bhutto Says Brown Amendment Government Achievement

BK1910061895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0300 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said the people's government in the past two years has made great strides to achieve political, economic and defense targets through serious and sincere efforts. In a message on the second anniversary of the elected government today, the prime minister said that with an agenda for change, they were at the threshold of the third year after passing through a long phase of political crisis and were marching toward political and economic stability. On this historic moment, they had taken up the task of people's welfare with the basic flaws in the country's economy having been removed. The GNP ratio has been increased to 4.7 percent this year and women were given equal opportunities for development and they got their proportionate share. The prime minister referred to the harmony and affinity between the Center and the provinces, which was, perhaps, never there before.

The prime minister referred to her government's efforts to draw world attention toward the Kashmir issue which have resulted in the recognition of the cause of the Kashmiri freedom fighters at the international level. The British Labor Party has recently recognized Kahsmir as a disputed area. The All parties Hurrriyat Conference leaders for the first time got an opportunity of stating their point of view before various groups of the OIC and at UN forums.

The prime minister said the elected government also made successful endeavors to bring Pakistan to a decisive turning point that is the Brown Amendment. She said all these achievements have been possible with the cooperation of the people and they were heading toward achieving the goal of national security and solidarity side by side with the consensus among all political parties and organizations on national issues.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto, however, made it clear that there had been no compromise on principles. She said that we want to eliminate crime from politics. Putting an end to terrorism in Karachi is a part of this policy of the elected government. She said they wanted the people of Karachi to have an atmosphere of peace and tranquility with all civic and social facilities, along with opportunities for economic development.

The anniversary celebrations will herald seminars and rallies all over the country with an advent of the Democracy Week being observed on this occasion.

Bhutto Reportedly Approves 'Bureaucratic Reshuffle'

BK1810125995 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The federal government on Tuesday [17 October] announced a large-scale bureaucratic reshuffle, including posting of all the Grade-22 officers on Special Duty (OSD's).

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto approved the reshuffle just before she left for Colombia and New York on a state visit late Monday night.

Sajman Faruqui, a top bureaucrat, has been shifted from the Ministry of Water and Power and made secretary in the Commerce Ministry. He has been assigned the task of arresting the downward trend in exports. The deadline occurred even in areas where the country enjoys monopoly in the international market.

He will continue to provide help and assistance to the spouse of the prime minister, Asif Ali Zardari, MNA [member of National Assembly], retaining the charge of secretary environment.

Faruqui is one bureaucrat, said a government leader, who found recognition and respect in the diverse governments of Zia, Junejo, Ms Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif. The present coalition government of the People's Democratic Front (PDF) considers him a "jewel" and has benefited from his talent in steering the government out of crises.

Faruqui will be replaced in the Ministry of Water and Power by Secretary Planning Ashfaq Mehmood, who is appointed Secretary Water and Power.

Ashiq Siddiqui, Member Federal Land Commission, has been transferred to the newly created Ministry of Human Rights.

An OSD in Grade-22, Nazar Abbas Siddiqui, has got the appointment of Member Port Qasim Authority.

The credit for OSD's appointment goes to THE NEWS because it published a report on these sidelined bureaucrats recently. Even the prime minister, according to sources close to her, acknowledged the points raised in the report. "Now, by giving appointments to Grade-22 OSD's, she has tried to dispel the impression that her government is victimising them for political considerations," said a government leader.

The former Ambassador to Sweden, Arshed Sami Khan, currently working in the Cabinet Division as Commissioner-General for 50th Anniversary of Pakistan has been made secretary culture. The post of secretary culture has been lying vacant since Ra'na Shaikh was moved from here to be made managing director, Pakistan Television Corporation. The recently appointed Secretary of the Human Rights Ministry, Inamul Haq, has been transferred to the Cotton Export Corporation to become its chairman.

The director-general of the National Institute of Population Studies [NIPS], Tauffq Fahmi, is shifted to the Narcotics Control Division as its secretary.

Another Grade—22 OSD, Ijaz Malik, is replacing Fahmi as DG [director general] NIPS. Before being made an OSD Malik held the post of secretary works.

Syrian Military Chief Pays Official Visit

Meets With President Leghari

BK2010044095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1345 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said Pakistan wants to have peace, stability, and development in the region and in the world. The president was talking to chief of staff, Syrian armed forces, Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadar [President House] today. The president said Pakistan wants to have a peaceful and political solution of the Kashmir problem which could not be solved militarily despite deployment of more than 600,000 Indian troops for the last several years. He said Pakistan also desires to have a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan. He said Syria could play very active and positive role for peace, stability, and development in the Middle East, South Asia, and the Central Asian Republics.

Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi said Syria will continue to support Pakistan at all international fora and would also like to try to enhance its friendly relationship and cooperation with Pakistan in some specific areas. He said his visit to Pakistan is aimed at enhancing coordination with armed forces of the two countries.

Conveys al-Asad's Greetings

JN2010070895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad—Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari yesterday received Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, [Syrian] chief of the General Staff of the Army and Armed Forces.

During the meeting, Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi conveyed the greetings of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to the Pakistani president and his wishes of continued good health for him, and of further progress and prosperity for the friendly Pakistani people.

For his part, the Pakistani president asked Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi to convey his best greetings to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, as well as his wishes of continued good health, and of further progress and loftiness for the Syrian people.

The talks addressed bilateral ties and ways to promote them.

Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi met with Pakistani Army Chief of Staff General ['Abd-al-Wahid] yesterday morning. They discussed bilateral ties and the prospects for promoting them. He also met with Pakistani Defense Minister Aftab Shaban [Mirani] and General [Farooq Fairuz Khan], chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Pakistani Armed Forces.

Discusses 'Common Views' With Mirani

BK2010044495 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1345 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Syrian defense delegation led by the chief of staff [of] Syrian Army, Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi called on the federal minister for defense, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, in Rawalpindi today. Both sides stressed the need for increasing cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the field of defense. Mr. Mirani said the two Muslim brotherly countries enjoyed cordial and fraternal relations and shared common views on issues like Kashmir and Middle East.

The Syrian general said his country fully supports Pakistan's principled stand on Kashmir.

President Meets JI Chief on Arrest of Officers

BK2010023395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 19 Oct 95 p 12

[Article by Javed Jaldi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad: Qazi Hussain Ahmad, chief of the Jammat-i-Islami [JI], had a meeting with President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari on Wednesday [18 October].

Though no official word was available about what was discussed in the meeting, sources said that it was held on the request of the President.

According to the sources, the subject of the talks was what they called the politicisation of the arrest of some army officials few days back. The President has learnt to have expressed concern about the "irresponsible statements" made in political quarters.

The sources said that the President had conveyed to Qazi Hussain Ahmad that foreign media, especially those against Pakistan, were exploiting the comments of political leaders on the arrests to harm our national interests.

President Leghari and Qazi Hussain also exchanged views on the Jamaat's different perceptions in some foreign policy areas. It is learnt that need for having consensus of all the political parties on important national issues was stressed. JI's relations with Harkat-ul-Ansar also came up for discussion.

The source said that President Leghari and Qazi Hussain also discussed how to safeguard the security of all major national institutions.

Qazi Hussain Ahmed assured President Leghari that he and his Jammat-e-Islami would oppose the politicisation of issues related to the Pakistan Army.

They also exchanged views on the political situation in the country with special reference to the opposition's back day and current conditions in Karachi.

Meanwhile, Malik Ghulam Mustafa Khar, Federal Minister for Water and Power, also met President Leghari. Sources said that he discussed issues related to his ministry, particularly the Tuesday's transfer of secretary Water and Power Slaman Faruql.

There had been reports of misunderstanding between the Minister and his secretary which had affected the performance of the department.

Source said Leghari and Khar also talked about the recent issue of inflated Wapda bills. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the Council Islamic Ideology, also had a meeting with Leghari.

NNI [expansion unknown] adds: KM Azhar, a central leader of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan, also called on President Leghari. He told Azhar that the government wants a political solution to the Karachi issue and is serious in its talks with the MQM [Muhajir Qauni Movement].

Talking to NNI, Azhar said they discussed the political situation in the country besides the Kashmir and Afghan issues. The president told Azhar that the problems facing the country were inherited by the present government, which was trying its best to solve them.

Azhar said he apprised the President of the common perception that the country was embroiled in a host of crisis while the government was doing nothing to deal with them. He also expressed concern about the Karachi problem.

The President in reply to Azhar's concern said the government is going all out to solve the country's problems, particularly the Karachi crisis.

Leghari said while the government was serious in solving the Karachi issue, the MQM was not responding positively to the government's overtures.

He said if the MQM renounce terrorism, the government is willing to extend several concessions to it, even the share in power.

The President urged the opposition to cooperate with the government in solving the national issues in the larger national interest.

MQM Notes Effects of Karachi Strike, 'Solidarity'

BK1710043595 (Internet) MQM NEWS in English 17 Oct 95

[MQM Press Release]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, October 12, 1995 — Karachi once again proved its solidarity with the MQM [Muhajir Quami Movement], by carrying out peaceful yet complete "day of mourning" on the appeal of MQM's coordination committee. The appeal was made after the murders of seven young MQM activists in police custody. Stock Exchange, banks, Governmental and Non-Governmental institutions, educational institutions and all small and large business centers remained closed.

District Central:

Liaquatabad, Nazimabad, Gulbahar, Federal B. Area, North Karachi, New Karachi and all other localities of district central came to complete shut down. The roads were deserted. Liaquatatabad Market, Sarrafa Bazar, North Nazimabad's Haidery Market and other shopping centers, big and small retail stores remained closed.

District East:

Tariq Road, the shopping malls in the vicinity of Allama Iqbal and Kashmir Road, the large and small shops in Bahadurabad and Gulshan-e-Iqbal remained closed. There were incidences in some areas of Shah Faisal Colony and Landhi when Governmental terrorists forcefully tried to make the people open their shops, but due to public unity remained unsuccessful in their objectives. Korangi road and the industrial units around that area remained closed.

District West:

Pak colony's Marble market remained closed. Orangi town and Baldia town were completely shut down and life literally came to halt in those areas.

District Malir:

Most of the flights from Jinnah Terminal got cancelled due to unavailability of staff. Other areas of Malir remained closed.

People have once again showed their outrage over the atrocities of Governmental forces on the Muhajirs by carrying out a unique and peaceful day of demonstration in all areas of Urban Sindh.

MQM Reports on Raids, Arrests in Karachi

BK1710043795 (Internet) MQM NEWS in English 17 Oct 95

[MQM Press Release]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, October 12, 1995 — Just after the announcement of the appeal for the "day of mourning" over the murders of seven MQM [Muhajir Quami Movement] members, the police and law enforcement agencies have started to arrest MQM members from various localities of Karachi.

According to the details, rangers and police have raided the house of MQM worker Naushad Ahmed in North Karachi and upon his absence ransacked his home. They also mistreated the female members of his family and looted different valuables from his home.

In Pakistan Chowk area Syed Ashraf Ali, Khalil Shah, Rashid Ahmed and Nazeer Ali's houses were raided and all of them were arrested along with some members of their families.

Gulshan Iqbal block 13-D worker Naeem Alvi's home was raided and upon his absence his younger brother Sohail Alvi was arrested and transported to unknown place.

From Mehmoodabad MQM supporter Nasir and Asif Rizvi, Rauf from Methadar, Nasimulhaq from Nazimabad, Khurshid and Ahsan from Gharibabad have been arrested.

Similar unconfirmed reports of raids and arrests have been received from various other localities of Karachi.

Nation Said at 'Risk' if PPP Continues Leadership

BK2010031695 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 19 Oct 95 p 12

[Article by Zafar Malik: "12-Point Charge-Sheet Against Government Opposition Silences Guns Against President"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad Pakistan Muslim League [PML](N) leader Gohar Ayab Khan on Wednesday [18 October] came out with a 12 point charge sheet against the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government on completion of its two-years. He claimed that the country and the people would be at greater risk in case the Benazir government is allowed to continue any more.

Briefing newsmen at a crowded press conference, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly said the PML(N) had given call for a nationwide black day on Thursday, by exercising its "legitimate right to protest to reflect popular sentiments." There will be no strike or any violent incident and we will mark the day through rallies, processions and demonstration", he said terming PPP regime as an anti-democratic, anti-national and anti- people that has no mandate or right to continue.

The charges include capping of nuclear programmes, saving India from disintegration by providing details about Sikh activists, ruining the economy, isolating the country diplomatically, politicising judiciary and bureaucracy and undermining provincial autonomy by invoking Article 234 of the Constitution, to topple the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] and Punjab Governments and dispatching federal troops to Sui to intimidate Nawab Bugti, and ruling Sindh through remote control form Islamabad.

He said Press has been gaged as never before through strangulation via duty on newsprint. Six newspapers were closed down on one day, the wholesale sacking in APP [Associated Press of Pakistan] and the killing of editor Takneer Salahuddin, the raid on the residence of Newsline editor Razia Bhatti, the murderous attack on Amn editor Ajmal Dehvi and ransacking of the BBC office were mentioned as "all firsts in Pakistan history and as an example of the ruling party's undemocratic character."

Gohar Ayb says corruption has become so widespread that the stench of kickbacks and financial loot and plunder permeate all deals whether it is submarines purchase, the Islamabad New City project or the restoration of six lanes for motorway.

He said the people were worse off facing their worst economic situation, making if difficult to pay utility bills and have three square meals a day as a result of the black deeds of the PPP in the last two years.

Replying to a question on the occasion Gohar Arab said the opposition considered President Farooq Leghari as a helpless person, who cannot rise above party politics. "That was why it had decided not to criticise him and you can say we are observing a sort of cease fire" said the opposition leader when pressed for an answer. He said the joint sitting would be held on October 19 and the opposition would protest on that occasion. The level of their reaction would directly depend on the Government's response to their black day protest on Thursday. "If the Government resorts to violence and uses brute state force against PML workers, we will retaliate on October 19", he said without elaborating the Opposition intentions and plans.

He did not agree with a suggestion to requisition a National Assembly session to discuss the recent arrest of army officers and said they would not support any such move an would prefer to wait for a formal statement from the army itself.

Radio Says Call for 'Black Day' Not Supported

BK2010052395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] People nationwide did not pay any attention to opposition leader Mohammad Nawaz Sharif's appeal to observe Black Day today. However, small groups had organized rallies at certain places, but they could not gather many people.

Meanwhile, public leaders have criticized the politics of agitation launched by the opposition. They said the truth cannot not be belied that under the leadership of Ms. Benazir Bhutto, the government has made notable achievements at national and international level. The leaders include Commerce Minister Chaudhary Ahmad Mukhtar; Anwar Saifullah Khan, Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources; Malik Mukhtar Awan, media adviser to the Information Ministry; and Provincial assembly member Haji Mohammad Iqbal Ghurki.

Sri Lanka

Bombs Explode at Oil Facility; Government Reacts

Bombs Trigger 'Huge Fire'

BK2010003795 Hong Kong AFP in English 2140 GMT 19 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 20 (AFP) — Powerful bombs exploded at Sri Lanka's main oil facility and an adjoining complex in the capital, Colombo, setting off a huge fire, residents and the fire department said.

Three blasts rocked the Kolonnawa refined-oil storage facility and the nearby Orugodawatte crude-oil storage complex, and residents said they saw flames from three miles away.

Those living nearby were preparing to evacuate the area.

Airforce helicopters were called in to assess the damage as the airforce sent its entire fleet of fire engines and summoned all units from in and around the capital to battle what is described as a major fire.

"We have sent all we got. But we still don't know how we can fighting this thing," a fire department spokesman told AFP.

Fire engines and emergency police units were rushed to the area. A police official at the scene said it was likely that the separatist Tamil Tiger guerillas were behind the attack.

'At least' 10 Said Killed

BK2010020295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0136 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 20 (AFP) At least ten people including security personnel, were killed when gunmen blasted the main oil storage facility in the Sri Lankan capital Colombo on Friday [20 October], witnesses said.

An AFP photographer at the scene said he counted 10 bodies of military personnel and police at the entrance to the Kolonnawa oil tank farm which was still burning after the pre-dawn attack.

Several more bystanders were also wounded in a crossfire between the unidentified gunmen and security forces, officials said.

The casualties at another nearby oil depot, which was also set ablaze in a simultaneous attack, was not immediately known.

Radio Reports on 'New Details'

BK2010133995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Investigators have discovered new details of this morning's bomb attack at the oil storage facility in Kolonnawa. Deputy Inspector General [DIG] of Police, H.M.G.B. Kotakadeniya, told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that the driver of a lorry seized in connection with this incident had confessed that his vehicle was used to transport the terrorists who carried out the attack. The lorry had arrived in Colombo from Kilinochchi. The mission had been undertaken on the instruction of the local LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leader named Soruban. The lorry had initially arrived at the house of an accomplice named Jegan who lived on the Kotte Road. Thereafter, the terrorists had used this lorry and a van bearing the registration number of 621176 for the attack on the storage complex. Seven terrorists had traveled in the van, while four others in the lorry. The DIG says that investigations have so far proved to be very fruitful.

The fire caused by the terrorist attack at Kolonnawa is now under control. Police and Petroleum Corporation authorities say that the flamed have definitely not spreading. The explosions set fire to eight storage tanks. Ceylon Petroleum Corporation's chairman, Anil Abeysekere, says that the fires in two of them have already been extinguished. The blaze destroyed 40,000 tons of diesel and 15,000 tons of kerosene. The total losses are currently estimated at 1,500 million rupees.

The chairman said, however, that the attack would not cause any fuel shortage. There may be a few difficulties in fuel supply distribution. Mr. Abeysekere also maintained that there had been no damage to the Sapugaskanda oil refinery. The blast did not affect any tank at the Urugodawatte gas storage facility. The Inspector General of Police, W.B. Rajaguru, also said that the situation is now under control. Investigations are continuing. A special unit has been entrusted with this task. The terrorists who had so far evaded arrest are now trying to escape to Vellampitiya, Demaragoda, Urugodawatte, and Nawagamuwa areas.

Meanwhile, SSP [Senior Superintendent of Police] Henry Perera says that 21 security force personnel died in clashes with the terrorists who were making their escape after the attack. One terrorist committed suicide, while a second was shot dead by the police. Several military vehicles were damaged in the confrontation. Security manager of the Urugodawatte gas facility, Major Shanta Selva, says that his installation was not damaged in the attack. The police has tightened security throughout the city. Meanwhile, the curfew now in force in the Colombo municipal area, the Kolonnawa urban area, and the Kelaniya area has been extended until 0400 tomorrow, Saturday the 21st.

The government is taking measures to improve fire fighting equipment from India to combat the blaze at the Kolonnawa oil storage facility. The power and energy minister is to obtain 25,000 tons of fire fighting chemical known as aqua foam compound. The chairman of the Central Environmental Authority, G.K. Amaratunge, told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that there had been no significant damage to the environment as a result of the fire. The sulfur dioxide emission produced by the flames are being dispersed into the upper atmosphere by strong winds. Contrary to some reports, the explosions did not damage the storage tank containing pesticides. People of the locality are not suffering from any symptoms other than those of heat exhaustion. Minister Sirimani Athulathmudali, however, has instructed the relevant authority to ensure that the environmental damage resulting from this morning's blast is kept to a minimum.

The Social Services Department, meanwhile, has appealed to all residents of the locality who fled the blaze to seek shelter at (Vidyabiwardene) vidyalaya [school] in Galampitiya. The department says that relief operations have been complicated by the fact that the displaced persons have spread out over a large area. It was decided to implement an emergency relief program at a meeting chaired by the deputy minister of social services Pavitra Vanniyarachi. The Colombo district parliamentarians, Bennet Kurien and Bharata Lakshman Premachandra, and the director of social services participated in the discussions.

Leaders Call For Calm After Attack

BK2010093595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 20 (AFP)—A spectacular attack by Tamil guerrillas Friday [20 October] on two oil storage facilities here, and the ensuing gun-battle, left at least 25 people dead and caused huge fires which sent thousands of panic-stricken residents fleeing.

Two squads of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas mounted the pre-dawn attacks on the Kolonnawa refined oil tank farm and the nearby Orugodawatte crude oil complex, a military spokesman said.

"First there were bomb explosions and when we rushed reinforcements to the area they came under heavy attack from the Tigers," the spokesman said, adding that between 30-40 rebels were believed to have carried out the attacks.

In the ensuing gun-battle, 10 airforce personnel, eight soldiers, two police commandos and a constable were killed, the spokesman said, adding troops shot dead at least four of the militants.

The guerrillas used automatic weapons, plastic explosives and a rocket launcher in the attack. Security forces here later seized a lorry and recovered the rocket-launcher, Colombo's police chief, H. M. Kotakadeniya said.

"About three hours after the fire broke out, eight gunmen tried to enter the Kolonnawa depot disguised as soldiers. They opened fire at an airforce jeep," police constable Ratnayake Sumanaratne told AFP.

The policeman was shot dead by the rebels when he set out from his home in Kolonnawa to arrange transport for his family and join thousands of other residents fleeing the area, officials said.

The government immediately imposed a city-wide curfew extended until dawn Saturday to allow security forces to search the area for more LTTE hit-teams, and prevent looting.

Most residents returned home soon after the government said it had the situation under control, only to flee again as strong winds threatened to spread the fire.

Deputy defence minister Anuruddha Ratwatte and opposition leader, Ranil Wickremesinghe appealed for calm and called for public cooperation with the security forces to maintain law and order.

Shortly after the attack, President Chandrika Kumaratunga left here for New York for the United Nations's 50th anniversary celebrations.

The LTTE assault came as the Sri Lankan army made sweeping gains in a military strike launched Tuesday in the northern Jaffna peninsula, the LTTE's main stronghold. Troops had been bracing for reprisal attacks by the LTTE.

Four of the 47 oil tanks in the Kolonnawa facility were still ablaze by mid-afternoon together with three crude oil tanks that went up in flames in the Orugodawatte complex, a short distance away, witnesses said.

"There is no fire fighting operation as such. There is very little we can do in this type of situation except [word indistinct] to prevent it from spreading. At the moment there is no such danger," a fire department spokesman said.

The Kolonnawa complex had a storage capacity of 250,000 tonnes of gasoline, aviation fuel, diesel and other fuel while at Orugodawatte, all three tanks were on fire, a capacity of 90,000 tonnes of crude, officials said.

The government suspended the sale of aviation fuel to foreign airlines and all domestic sales of petroleum products to ensure remaining stocks could be used by the health sectors and the military.

The government placed an urgent order for 10,000 gallons of fire-quenching foam from a supplier in neighbouring India and sought technical expertise from New Delhi to battle the inferno, officials said.

The LTTE has been blamed for several bomb attacks in Colombo in a bid to boost its violent campaign for a separate state embracing the northern and eastern regions for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils.

Government Seeks Aid To Fight Fire

BK2010032395 Hong Kong AFP in English
0247 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 20 (AFP) — Sri Lanka is appealing for international help to put out major oil storage tank fires in the capital after they were blown up by gunmen here Friday [20 October], officials said.

The government has already contacted New Delhi to buy 25,000 tonnes of "aqua foam compound" to fight the fires, said a spokesman for the ministry of power and energy.

"We are also asking for Indian expertise to fight the flames. The Indian government has asked us for details," he added.

Sri Lanka was also considering contacting other countries "depending on the situation," the spokesman added.

The government move came as fire-fighters watched helplessly as fires ravaged the Kolonnawa oil storage depot and the nearby Orugodawatte crude-oil complex following the pre-dawn attack by gunmen who let off bombs.

A total of 21 of 47 storage tanks at Kolonnawa were on fire.

A fire department spokesman said fire-fighters faced a daunting task unless they received additional supplies of foam. Ten fire- engines had been rushed to the scene.

But he said there was "no fire-fighting operation as such. There is very little we can do in this type of situation except prevent it from spreading. At the moment there is no such danger.

Government Stops Aviation Fuel Sale

BK2010035695 Hong Kong AFP in English
0339 GMT 20 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Oct 20 (AFP) — Sri Lanka on Friday [20 October] suspended the sale of aviation fuel to foreign airlines and imposed an immediate ban on domestic petrol sales following Friday's attack on an oil storage depot here, officials said.

"The government has ordered an immediate halt to the sale of aviation fuel to foreign airlines. Fuel will be given only to AirLanka (the national carrier)," a spokesman for the ministry of power and energy said.

Sri Lanka's existing stocks were being reserved to maintain essential services such as hospitals and food distribution.

He said a fresh shipment of aviation fuel was due here November 1. Four out of 47 tanks at Kolonnawa storage depot were burning.

Kolonnawa has a capacity of 250,000 tonnes of aviation fuel, diesel, kerosene and furnace oil while three tanks at a nearby Orugodawatte complex which was also attacked, contain 90,000 tonnes of crude oil.

Several other tanks threatened by the fires contain another 20,000 tonnes of aviation fuel, officials said.

The tanks that were ablaze contained 63,000 tonnes of diesel and 19,000 tonnes of petrol, officials said.

Despite a curfew in the capital, thousands of vehicles queued up outside filling stations after the government imposed its ban on the sale of diesel and petrol for domestic consumption.

Spokesman Says Air Force 'Pounded' LTTE Targets

BK1910112095 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 19 Oct 95

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thousands of soldiers participating in Operation Riviresa (Sunshine) continued their advance Wednesday [18 October] as Air Force fighting bombers pounded LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] targets ahead of the troops, Military Spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said.

The troops, backed by armour and artillery, advanced about one kilometre yesterday. "The operation is continuing and the advance is progressing satisfactorily," Brigadier Munasinghe said. Troops have advanced three and a half kilometres since the launching of the operation Tuesday.

He said LTTE transmissions indicated that Tigers were moving fresh groups to the battlefront as they could not face the advance of troops.

He put the Tiger death toll at over 61. One officer and 38 soldiers have been killed in action. Three army vehicles were hit by enemy RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade) fire.

Deputy Defence Minister Anuruddha Ratwatte and the three service commanders were in the Jaffna peninsula Tuesday, supervising and directing operations.

The LTTE's clandestine radio 'Voice of Tigers' has admitted that Tiger cadres suffered heavy casualties during the latest army offensive launched at dawn on Tuesday when soldiers broke out southwards from their Forward Defended Localities in the Jaffna peninsula.

Our Vavuniya correspondent said the Tiger radio announced the deaths of 46 cadres during the last two days. It reported that 16 Tigers were killed in clashes in the Eastern region on Monday. Over 250 rebels have been injured during the latest offensive in the Jaffna peninsula.

Security forces recently completed the Operation Thunder Strike, capturing 25 square kilometres of territory. Over 300 Tigers who tried to launch a counter-attack were killed.

Meanwhile,in eastern Batticaloa, the ICRC Tuesday evening handed over the bodies of 15 army personnel killed in clashes with the Tigers at Chenkalady on Monday, to security forces representatives. The servicemen were reported missing earlier following a confrontation with the rebels in which at least 16 Tigers were also killed.

According to a military officer,soldiers backed by armoured vehicles were on a limited operation and had advanced about five kilometres from Chenkaladi towards Thamparaveli area in the morning, successfully repulsing enemy attacks and causing heavy casualties among LTTE cadres.

The situation had however changed at about 3 p.m. when about 700 rebel cadres surrounded the soldiers and attempted to cut off their withdrawal route.Heavy fighting had erupted between the rebels and the soldiers during which 29 soldiers were killed and 40 wounded. Sixteen rebels including three senior leaders were also confirmed killed while about 100 were reported wounded.

The bodies of 15 of the dead soldiers were handed over to the military by the rebels through the ICRC. While some reports from the area said that the bodies had been mutilated and at least one, believed to belong to an officer, had its eyes gouged out, senior military officers in the area said that they were uncertain about it as the bodies were in a state of decomposition when they were handed over 24 hour later.

Minister Gives 1995 Defense Expenditure Estimate

BK1910111995 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0637 GMT 19 Oct 95

["Pool Item"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Oct 19 (LANKAPUVATH) — The government's defence expenditure is estimated to reach between Rs. [rupees] 30 and 33 billion by the end of 1995, Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister and Deputy Minister of Finance Prof. G.L. Peiris told parliament yesterday.

The minister was winding up the debate on the Provincial Council Turnover Taxes Bill and was responding to a query raised earlier in the day by Mr. Ronnie de Mel. "This is an approximate figure. One cannot be specific in this regard", he said responding to an interruption by Mr. A.C.S. Hameed.

The budgetary estimates on defence for 1995 was Rs. 24 billion. Since then the house approved supplementary estimates in a sum of Rs. 4.2 billion bringing the total defence expenditure upto now to Rs. 28.2 billion, the minister said.

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